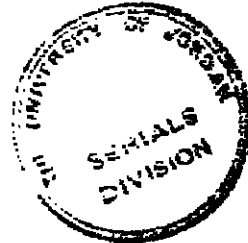


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Israel won't attack Iraq: Hamad

KUWAIT, April 13: Israel will not launch any attack on Iraq as the scenario of the Arabs has undergone a radical transformation and their unity is no longer easily divisible by Israel and its two supportive powers Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force told Ahmed Al-Jarrah, Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times in an exclusive interview.

Sheikh Hamad, concluding, said that all indicators reflect this view as geographically, Iraq occupies a vast area of land, is not located in close proximity to Israel and consequently Israel will not be able to occupy any Iraqi lands or to commit aggression as it will not be able to determine which locations should be attacked.

Nevertheless, even denying these undeniable factors, the question warrants answering as to what the Iraqi reaction will be to the eventuality that Israel does make a mistake and attack.

Iraq has just emerged victorious from a war in which her enemy was better manned and equipped and has the proven expertise and its defenses are of a sophisticated nature, the Crown Prince said.

He went on to state that with this backdrop, consideration should be given that in the past those interested in parts of the Middle East that belong to the Arab tried to apply the "Divide and Rule" policy and succeeded with Israel as an active accomplice.

However, with the advent of the nineties, the Arab world has been witnessing a massive wave

of cohesion as embodied in the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, the emergence of the GCC, ACC and Maghreb Co-operation Council.

In conclusion, Sheikh Hamad said: "This factual overview of the Arab state of affairs leads me to believe that Israel will desist from considering the possibility of an attack on Iraq."

Full Interview Page 9

Bitter words may stoke fear of war

5 Pakistani, one Indian soldiers killed; reinforcement reported

NEW DELHI, April 13. (Agencies): India does not want a war with Pakistan over disputed Kashmir because a war would endanger the democratic government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a top Indian official said today.

"Nobody wants a war," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"But if they do try something, they'll get hammered. Boy, would they get hammered. And this has been conveyed to the other side," the official said in an interview.

The two countries have downplayed border skirmishes in Kashmir where bitter words

over an anti-Indian uprising have stoked fears of war.

Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Prasad Singh told Pakistan this week it could not wrest Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, away without a war and India would make it pay a heavy price if it tried.

The United News of India said five Pakistani soldiers and one Indian were killed in border skirmishes yesterday. The Indian Defence Ministry said it could not confirm the report.



Killer whale

Gary Wong, brushes the teeth of the 16-year-old killer whale Haway at Hong Kong's Ocean Park. The whale shows, recognised as being among the best in the world, draw thousands of tourists to the park every day. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mother stabbed Joy turns into pain

IRONICALLY, the Maternity Hospital which has been witness to countless shouts of joy on the birth of a child, was the scene of painful screams during the period a murder was being committed.

The murdered victim was a 19-year-old teenager mother who had given birth to her first baby a few days ago.

According to official sources, one of her relatives forced his way into the victim's bedroom during the evening visiting hours and brutally stabbed the victim with a knife several times.

Sources further said that the victim was alleged to have had an illicit relationship with her paramour which resulted in the birth of the illegitimate child.

The accused was arrested and the knife confiscated. Investigations are underway, though no further details were made available.



News photography

The photo staff of the Oakland (CA) Tribune has been awarded the Pulitzer prize on Thursday for spot news photography during the Bay Area earthquake of 1989. In this photograph by Tribune staffer Angela Pancrazio, Dorothy Lee of Piedmont prays for earthquake victims at an Oakland Memorial. (Reuters wirephoto)



Brothers and sisters of the leading political leader Najib Ahmed mourn his death April 11. Right: Rashid Rabbani the Karachi president of Pakistan People's Party is examined by doctors as he begins counter fast in a war of hunger strikes to protest political violence April 12. The chief of Mohajir National Movement (MOM) Altaf Hussain is also on hunger strike since April 18. (Reuters wirephotos)

Karachi peace appeal Counter fasting

KARACHI, April 13. (Agencies): An official of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party has begun a counter fast in a war of hunger strikes to protest against political violence, party officials said.

Karachi PPP president Rashid Rabbani began his "fast unto death" about midnight on Wednesday in reply to a five-day-old similar strike by Altaf Hussain, leader of the powerful opposition Mohajir Qatni Movement (MQM).

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers appeared on Karachi streets as tension between the rival parties mounted after a pro-PPP student leader died of head wounds received in a shootout.

Altaf says he will continue the fast to death unless authorities arrest killers of 12 MQM activists. Rabbani says he wants the killers of PPP activists to be arrested.

The PPP's Sind government has said it will not spare anybody found guilty.

Hundreds of Altaf's supporters are also on hunger strike demanding the release of MQM activists arrested over the latest upsurge in violence.

Eight PPP activists yesterday joined Rabbani in his hunger strike.

Altaf was reportedly in "satisfactory" condition after having lost seven pounds (three kilograms), but doctors said he was "showing signs of weakness."

Thousands of waiting supporters have been keeping a vigil outside his home and doctors

NEWSWATCH

6 die in Baroda riots: Six people, including a woman, were killed after a crowd of Muslims incited by a fire in a mosque clashed with Hindus in the riot-torn western Indian city of Baroda, police said on Friday.

Police patrolled the streets and extended an existing curfew to other parts of Baroda after the six were stabbed to death on Thursday night, bringing to 18 the number killed in sectarian riots in the city since April 6. (Reuters)

Bombay hotel catches fire: Fire engulfed the five-star Oberoi Towers Hotel in Bombay forcing the evacuation of hundreds of employees and guests, many of them foreigners, police said on Friday.

The fire broke out on Thursday night in the kitchen and filled the 36-story building with smoke. At least 45 fire engines were called to the scene and firemen fought the blaze for nearly ten hours. (Reuters)

Saudi to keep haj quotas: Saudi Arabia has said quotas for the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah will remain in force, making an Iranian boycott costly for the shah's regime.

Quotas were introduced after more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in 1987 with security forces who prevented them from holding political rallies. (Reuters)

Grenade attacks kills 18: A grenade thrown into a crowd waiting to see a movie in northeastern Thailand has killed 18 people, including women and children, and injured 50 others, a press report said Thursday.

The grenade was hurled into a crowd of some 700 people in Buntharik district of Ubon Ratchathani province Tuesday evening. The Nation, an English-language newspaper reported. (AP)

Riot over teen-ager's death: Youths overturned patrol cars, smashed windows and looted stores after the slaying of a black teen-ager by a white police officer. At least five people were injured in Teaneck, New Jersey.

About 1,000 people held a special prosecutor investigate the killing of 15-year-old Phillip Pannell. (AP)

Syria to hold polls: Syria will hold general elections on May 22 and Parliament will be expanded from 195 deputies to 250, President Hafez Al Assad announced on Friday.

Political sources said groups forming the progressive National Front, which includes the ruling Arab Socialist Party, would make electoral gains but the same candidates in most constituencies. (Reuters)

Crocodile bites off hand: A crocodile at a Muslim shrine in southern Bangladesh bit a woman worshipper's hand off because it was hungry, local officials said on Thursday.

They said Tahmina Begum, 55, had gone to the shrine in the district of Bagerhat to offer prayers.

She extended her arms in a traditional salutation to one of the crocodiles who live around the shrine but it lunged forward, grabbed the woman and began dragging her towards a pond.

Other worshippers pulled her back but the crocodile bit off her hand and swallowed it. (Reuters)

Iraq offers disarmament treaty

UK probes Iraq 'Doomsday Gun'

Baghdad denies allegation

LONDON, April 13. (Agencies): Britain is investigating allegations that Iraq planned to build the world's biggest gun, capable of firing nuclear, chemical or biological warheads into Tel Aviv or Tehran.

The Defence Ministry said pipe castings, made by a firm in northern England with official approval, could have been used to construct what the press dubbed a "Doomsday Gun" with a 40-metre (170-foot) barrel.

Iraq hotly denied the allegations and said the cylinders were precision piping for its petroleum industry.

Sheffield Forgemasters, which made the castings, said that if they were for a gun the order would have been "the biggest con job in the history of arms manufacture."

British customs confiscated the sections just weeks after seizing US electrical components bound for Baghdad which could be used as nuclear triggers.



A British customs and excise officer inspects a large cone section of the 40m long pipe that was due to be exported to Iraq. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iraq, which executed British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft last month on spying charges, said the moves were part of "a feverish orchestrated campaign" against it by Britain and Israel.

Political sources expected the seizure to be discussed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and US President George Bush when they met in Bermuda today.

British press reports connected the alleged gun project with Canadian scientist Gerald Bull, a gunnery expert who was shot dead in Brussels last month.

Customs code-named their swoop "Project Bertha" after the German World War One artillery gun nicknamed "Big Bertha", which was carried by rail, had a barrel nearly 30 metres (98 feet) long and was used to bombard Paris.

Chief customs investigator Douglas Tweddle said the castings could be used "as the barrel of a large artillery gun to fire a projectile of some considerable size."

He reached his conclusion after advice from an expert from the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment.

Other military experts listed the formidable technical difficulties in building and firing such a weapon.

The cylinders would have to be tough enough to withstand the huge ballistic pressures needed to fire shells.

The length of the barrel would have to be supported and the accuracy of the missiles was questionable.

Aziz spoke after Saddam met with Dole, and five other senators who are touring the Middle East.

US senators urged Saddam to halt efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and germ warfare capability, which they said created "dangerous tensions" in the Middle East.

Dole said Saddam was seriously worried that Israel planned to launch a pre-emptive strike similar to the one in June 1981, when Israeli warplanes bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

"They still remember the 1981 Israeli strike and I think there is some fear that that might recur," Dole told reporters in Israel after arriving from Iraq.

The United States has asked Britain for more information about steel cylinders destined for Iraq which could be used for a giant cannon, the State Department said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher refused to comment on the seizure of the cylinders by British customs officials or to confirm news reports that they might be the barrel of a huge gun that could lob warheads across the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting in this northern city between Saddam and five US senators, Aziz scoffed at the British allegations.

But officials in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, admit that many people have refused rations the army has been offering since Wednesday to alleviate curfew hardships.

Srinagar, the state's summer capital, has been under curfew for most of this year as militants demanding independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan have organised a popular revolt against Indian rule. Well over 200 people have died.

Daily breaks in the curfew were cancelled when militants kidnapped three government officials a week ago. The three were killed on Tuesday.

Today Kashmir's chief Muslim priest, Moulvi Farooq, sent a telegram of appeal to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking him to persuade India to stop "brutal killings, inhuman excess ... and indiscriminate arrests of innocent Kashmiris."

"The entire 800,000 population of Srinagar and the inhabitants of other valley towns have been made hostages by round-the-clock curfew restrictions and that too in the holy month of Ramadan," the telegram said.

Moulvi Farooq claimed 500 had died.

State police chief J.M. Saxena blamed the curfew on the militants.

(Continued on Page 2)

Ramadan Timings

Imrak:	3.51
Itar:	6.14

Curfew-bound Kashmiris turn down army food offer

SRINAGAR, April 13. (Reuters): Curfew-bound Muslims in Kashmir are going short of food rather than accept handouts from Indian troops sent in to crush their secessionist revolt.

They accuse the security forces of looting, manhandling women and arresting innocent people in house-to-house searches since curfew breakers were cancelled last Friday in an intensified crackdown on militants.

"The Indian Army is a disciplined force and nobody should expect such things from my people," said army commander Zaki Khan, denying the charges.

INTERNATIONAL

Tribals bomb Indian trains

NEW DELHI, April 13, (Reuters) Bodo tribal militants derailed two passenger trains with bombs in the northeast Indian state of Assam and killed at least 15 people, the United News of India agency reported today.

It said more than 50 people were injured when two time bombs blew up railway tracks in Assam's Kokrajhar district last night.

The Press Trust of India put the toll at 13 but quoted official sources as saying it could go higher.

At least 22 people were killed yesterday by Bodo bombs. Earlier, a bomb which police said was detonated by remote control blew up a truck, killing seven people and injuring 10.

Assam is one of the most important tea-growing areas of India, the world's biggest tea producer and exporter.

The state's land links to the rest of India were cut after suspected Bodo guerrillas blew up a bridge on the main highway and railway authorities suspended all traffic into and out of Assam, the agencies added.

The bombings marked a new peak in the long-running Bodo fight for their own state within India.

In Calcutta, tea industry sources said a spate of killings and kidnappings by another militant group had created panic among Assam growers.

On Monday suspected members of the secessionist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) ambushed and killed Surendra Paul, chairman of a large tea company.

Paul was shot dead as he drove around tea gardens owned by his company in Assam.

Police in Gauhati, the Assam capital, said it was not certain the killers belonged to the ULFA, which has claimed responsibility for previous killings of businessmen.

Filipino officials discuss reports of plot to topple Aquino

MANILA, April 13, (AP) Senior commanders huddled yesterday to discuss the situation in the factious armed forces after the Cabinet was warned of a new plot to topple President Corason Aquino.

Meanwhile, the United States urged its nationals in the Philippines to be alert against terrorism during the remainder of Easter week.

Rumours of a new coup attempt before Easter this Sunday have been

sweeping the capital for weeks. Intelligence sources have said renegade leaders of the December coup attempt have stepped up recruiting in military camps in preparation for a new strike.

The closed-door command conference took place after several generals flew earlier yesterday to provincial military garrisons to assess sentiment in the ranks.

Reporters who traveled to Davao

City with Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Rodolfo Biazon said soldiers complained about Aquino's alleged lack of leadership, factionalism in the armed forces and pay and living conditions.

Soldiers also voiced dissatisfaction with alleged favouritism in Aquino's recent appointment of Brig. Gen. Cesar Nazareno as chief of the Philippine Constabulary. Nazareno was not the most senior candidate for the

post but is close to Aquino's influential brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco. On Wednesday, Rep. Ramon Mitra, speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters that military officials briefed the cabinet about "the report of yet another coup d'etat."

Mitra did not elaborate, but government sources said military officials were taking reports of a new coup plot seriously.

"The cabinet was given assurance that... they (will) take immediate and decisive action if there is any indication of another coup attempt," Mitra said.

National Security Adviser Rafael Iletto, a retired general, said military rebels may stage attacks to worsen the already critical electricity shortage in Manila and surrounding Luzon Island.

"We will see to it that all power

plants are well-guarded," Iletto said. The 8-million residents of metropolitan Manila have been coping with daily power outages of several hours because of lack of generating equipment and a drought which has reduced the capability of hydroelectric stations.

The State Department Wednesday warned Americans traveling to the Philippines that there is a "heightened danger of terrorist attacks this week."

War fears rise

Dangerous period

Kashmir row

NEW DELHI, April 13, (Reuters) India and Pakistan both say they do not want to fight a third war over Kashmir, but increasingly heated rhetoric over the disputed Himalayan region is creating tremors of fear that they might stumble into one.

"We are assured by both sides that the last thing they want or need is another war," said one Western ambassador in Delhi on Thursday.

"But the temperature has risen markedly this week and has heightened the risk that misplaced words or a border skirmish could set off a war," he said. "I have to say that we are concerned."

Predominantly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan have been bitter enemies for most of their 43 years of independence. Two of the three wars they have fought were over Kashmir.

A secessionist uprising in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, where more than 200 people have been killed since violence erupted in mid-January, quickly wiped out recent improvements of relations.

"Now they are like a couple of angry dogs circling each other, each hoping they can slide away without losing face but ready to fight if they have to," said a senior Asian envoy.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants in the one-third of the region it controls. Islamabad denies the charge, saying Indian neglect of Jammu and Kashmir provoked the uprising.

Each accuses the other of fuelling war scares. Each has a relatively weak government.

Prime Minister Benazir Butto,

ISLAMABAD, April 13, (Reuters) Military tension between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, which has sparked war fears, could deepen over the next few weeks because of a potentially explosive combination of religion, politics and weather changes.

The onset of spring in the mountains of Kashmir, the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and polls in Pakistan-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir could be a dangerous mix.

Once the snow melts on the higher mountain passes, more people are expected to escape an Indian crackdown on a Muslim revolt in Indian Kashmir to join more than 5,000 who have already fled to Pakistan, officials say.

Elections for the semi-autonomous Azad Kashmir Assembly next month are likely to raise the political temperature, while the end of Ramadan at the end of April is often marked by an upsurge in violence in Pakistan.

The result, according to Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum, could be a fourth war between India and Pakistan.

"I think anything could happen. It will continue to escalate and that can lead to a military showdown," he said in an interview.

"I think the period from now until the end of August will be very crucial," an Indian official source said.

Western diplomats in Pakistan say the chances of war are real but the danger is not imminent. The note that there have been periods of worse tension between the two countries that were resolved peacefully.

Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh warned this week that Pakistan could not wrest Muslim Kashmir without a war and India would make it pay a heavy price.

Singh's statement, his strongest yet over Kashmir, sparked fresh fears of a conflict and prompted at least one Western embassy in Islamabad to advise staff to stock up with food and other essentials.

"At the moment I would say it is 50-50," a senior Pakistani army officer said.

"I think that there is a strong possibility of war."

Pakistan's army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg accused India this week of deploying a strike corps of up to 100,000 men in the Rajasthan desert within 80 km (50 miles) of the border.

daughter of executed Pakistan leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has only a narrow parliamentary majority and faces a strong opposition on the right determined to bring her down.

Her Indian counterpart, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, heads a minority government, supported in parliament by a right-wing Hindu party and leftist groups.

"Neither can afford to let up

on the rhetoric and give domestic opponents the argument that they are being weak. Dangerous stuff, this," a Western diplomat said.

Indian analysts said Benazir, prodded by a Pakistani press portraying India's tough action against Kashmiri militants as a Hindu war against Muslims, was the more vulnerable and had to risk higher-octane words.

US will look for other base sites

SINGAPORE, April 13, (UPI) A US congressional delegation visiting Singapore yesterday warned the Philippine government that alternative sites will be available "if the price is too high" to renew leases on critical military bases there.

Representative Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado, welcomed Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's offer to allow the United States to expand its use of aviation and port facilities in Singapore.

"The United States can protect its interests in the region without all the facilities we now utilise in the Philippines," she said.

Prior to departing for Bangkok, Schroeder, who was leading the delegation on the five-nation tour, said, "we would prefer to stay in the Philippines. But if that becomes impossible or too expensive, the United States will not, in any way, be weakened by having to leave."

Exploratory talks to determine whether to hold formal negotiations on the future of giant Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval complex — Washington's oldest and largest overseas facilities — are to begin May 14 in Manila amid mounting pressure against their continued presence.

Bitter words may stoke fear of war

(Continued from Page 1)

across the ceasefire line dividing the troubled state of Kashmir, killing one Indian and five Pakistanis. Pakistan's English-language newspaper today reported only the shooting deaths of two Muslim militants.

The newspaper said Indian troops gunned down two militants, whom they described as "freedom fighters," outside the Indian city of Srinagar.

A radical Muslim group campaigning for Kashmir's independence from India yesterday pronounced a "death sentence" on Jammu and Kashmir state Governor Jagmohan.

A spokesman of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (priests) council said in Srinagar the ulama (priests) council had passed the death sentence on Jagmohan because Indian security forces had let loose a "reign of terror."

Indian security forces launched a massive manhunt last week after militants seized a university vice-chancellor, general manager of a state-run factory and a third person.

All three were killed on Tuesday after the state government refused to free three jailed militants in exchange for the kidnapped men.

On Wednesday authorities sealed all exit points from Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and intensified house-to-house searches.

Pakistan expressed deep regret on Wednesday at what it called India's "belligerent" threat to war over Kashmir and the army chief of staff warned of Indian military intimidation.

The Foreign Ministry said Indian prime minister's threat on Tuesday to make Pakistan pay a heavy price for interfering in Kashmir was a measure of New Delhi's mounting desperation in the face of a Muslim uprising in the region.

Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg said India had deployed its strike force within 80 km (50 miles) of the border in the Rajasthan desert and called it an act of intimidation.

He told a conference of corps commanders in Rawalpindi that the Indian action was most threatening and Pakistan had to take measures to counter it, the official APP news agency reported.

The violence occurred on the eve of Singh's visit to Amritsar, site of the Sikh Golden Temple and a centre of



Nailed to the cross

Filipino penitents were nailed to crosses Friday as Asia's only predominantly Christian nation marked the crucifixion of Jesus.

About a dozen people were nailed to crosses in several communities of central Luzon Island, including a woman

faith healer who marked her 14th Good Friday "crucifixion." Picture shows a Filipino, dressed as a Roman soldier, hammers a nail into the palm of Christ's Crucifixion in Barrio Ocho, north of Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Nobody is indispensable'

CALCUTTA, April 13, (UPI) Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa affirmed yesterday that her poor health and advanced age prompted her to ask to be relieved as head of the charitable order she founded 40 years ago, saying "nobody is indispensable in this world."

"I want to resign because of my failing health and growing age," the 79-year-old Roman Catholic nun told United Press International in a telephone interview hours after first declining to comment on a Vatican announcement Wednesday that her wish had been granted by Pope John Paul II.

"I sought the permission of the Holy Father some time ago to resign, but I do not remember the date," said Mother Teresa, who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for the work performed for the destitute and dying by her Missionaries of Charity order.

Mother Teresa, who has suffered coronary problems for the past several years, in September was admitted in a Calcutta hospital after her condition deteriorated. She was released after more than a month, with

doctors hoping to control her ailment with drugs.

Doctors advised her to restrict her activities.

But despite the warning, Mother Teresa resumed her busy

life, saying in a meeting last month with Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat that she planned to visit occupied Jerusalem and Bethlehem later this year.

Wijeratne said Pakistan, which currently holds Saarc's rotating leadership, had yet to respond to Sri Lanka's offer.

The 1990 summit, scheduled for the Maldives, is expected to be held in the fall. Sri Lanka had proposed that the 1989 summit be held belatedly in Colombo this month.

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Mother Teresa Living saint

CALCUTTA, April 13, (Reuters) Mother Teresa, whose resignation from her charitable order was announced on Wednesday, brought hope and dignity to millions of poor, unwanted people with a simple message: "The poor must know that we love them."

To followers who regard her as a living saint, the tiny nun says with disarming simplicity that she is only doing God's work.

The work that Mother Teresa began alone 40 years ago in the slums of Calcutta, India's poorest and most populous city, grew to touch the hearts of people of all religions in as many as 80 countries.

The gentle but energetic missionary who was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1979 said: "It gives me great joy and fulfillment to love and care for the poor and neglected. The poor do not need our sympathy and pity. They need our love and compassion."

The Vatican said on Wednesday that Mother Teresa, fitted with a heart pacemaker last December, had resigned for health reasons as superior of her Missionaries of Charity order which runs more than 400 homes around the world for the needy.

Mother Teresa believes that apart from poverty and hunger, the world's major problems are loneliness and neglect.

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For a better milk

King Birendra to meet top rival

KATMANDU, April 13, (AP) King Birendra was to meet Nepal's top opposition leader today to discuss demands that the king loosen his grip on power, an opposition party official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Birendra would meet Nepali Congress Party leader Ganesh Man Singh at 4 pm (1015 GMT).

It was not immediately clear whether Birendra was ready to concede to opposition demands, but political observers have said that Birendra has few options and risks losing

his crown if he refuses.

"The king's invitation has been conveyed to us... obviously the demands will be discussed," said the opposition official.

Singh leads the Nepali Congress Party, which along with its ally, the seven-party United Left Front, campaigned successfully for a multiparty system in the Himalayan kingdom.

It was to be the first meeting between the Harvard-educated Birendra and the 75-year-old politician since Singh spearheaded the pro-democracy movement on Feb 18

The Nepali Congress and the Communist Alliance yesterday issued a set of eight demands as preconditions for joining an interim government. Those demands include amending the constitution, dissolving the rubber stamp government and dissolving the partyless national assembly; the Kashitrya Panchayat, which is dominated by the king

Birendra, 44, invited the two main newly-legalised opposition groups to join the interim government on Sunday after lifting a 30-year-old ban on political parties.

BA bid Phone calls from skies

WASHINGTON, April 13. (Kuna): Business passengers on a long British Airways 747 jet are taking advantage of a new convenience: Telephone calls from the skies.

From their cabin telephones, passengers' conversations in the experimental programme are beamed up to a satellite in space, then down to almost any place on earth.

Standard radio communications — around since the advent of the air age — is cheap. But it does not carry too far and is blockable by bad weather.

The satellite link-up eliminates these problems but to date is very costly (about \$10 a minute).

Many analysts believe airplane phones will become common and much less expensive in coming years.

But others told the Washington Post there will never be a wide appeal except among some business passengers or government people who need to stay in constant touch with the ground.

Using the same satellite technology, pilots hope soon to be able to contact ground controllers from much farther away.

Always at right time

BOSTON, April 13. (AP): For the world traveller, or for those who just never have enough time, comes a new invention: A watch designed to fool the wearer into thinking he's always at the right time, even between time zones.

And with hands that can be speeded up or slowed down, the watch does have its other uses, its inventor says. Time can fly during a dull party, or crawl for a fun date.

The thing to avoid is having a very boring conversation on a west-bound trip, because your watch is already running slower, and if the person next to you is boring the pants off you, you're in trouble, said Ross Mitchell, a 38-year-old computer systems consultant who recently patented the watch.

On the other hand, Mitchell said, "if you're going eastbound, you can tolerate someone who's not holding your interest, because time is running faster."

With a regular watch, a traveller who boards a plane at 8 am in Boston would travel six hours to get to Los Angeles, where his watch would read 2 pm, until he set it back three hours to match local time.

The traveller who wears the accelerator watch, however, punches in the time at a destination and the hours to be spent in flight.

Then, on a westbound flight, the hands would move half as fast as real time, reverting to normal time-keeping upon arrival. For eastbound travellers, the watch would go 50 per cent faster than normal time.

Mitchell dreamed up the accelerator during his numerous business trips.

High survival rate in early ovarian cancer

BOSTON, April 13 (UPI): Women with early ovarian cancer who receive expert care have a much better chance of surviving than previously thought, the largest study of the disease so far concluded.

Ovarian cancer patients whose tumour is found early apparently also can avoid chemotherapy following surgical removal of their tumours without reducing their chances of survival, the study found.

The results "finally give us the handle that we've needed in treating early stage ovarian cancer," said Dr. Harrison Ball of New England Medical Centre in Boston, who participated in the research. Previously there had no standard approach, said Ball.

There are about 20,000 new cases of ovarian cancer and 12,000 deaths from the disease nationally each year. The disease, which affects one in 70 women, has the highest fatality rate of any cancer of the female reproductive tract. It was responsible for the death last year of comedienne Gilda Rand.

In about 2,500 of the new cases, the disease has not spread beyond the ovaries. In another 3,500, it has spread but is still confined within the pelvic cavity.

In the new study, among those women whose cancer had not spread beyond the ovaries and who underwent meticulous medical evaluation, the five-

year survival rate exceeded 90 per cent, said Dr. Robert Young, president of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre in Philadelphia.

Previously published survival rate for such patients ranged between 50 and 70 per cent, Young said.

In another group of women whose tumour had spread beyond the ovaries, but was limited to the pelvis or had not spread but was not well confined, researchers found a five-year survival rate of 80 per cent. That was substantially above previous estimates ranging between 38 per cent and 60 per cent.

In addition, the study found no difference in long-term survival between women with cancer limited to the ovaries who underwent chemotherapy and those who received no treatment beyond surgery.

"Prior to this study, it was not possible to know which patients required additional treatment and which did not, and what treatment was most effective," said Young, co-author of a report which appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine.

He predicted the study results will have an immediate impact on the way that doctors treat women with early ovarian cancer.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PEORIA, Illinois: Comedians who poke fun at US Vice President Dan Quayle do not play in Peoria, at least not with the vice president's biggest fans. The hit the trail for Quayle club.

Dan Quayle is not the fool comedians portray, according to the club, which has launched a letter-writing campaign to get the vice president out of late-night show punch lines.

They make him out to be some hoarse-stomached, but he's no dummy," said Noel Clark, one of 30 members of the club started this year.

Ten club members assembled Saturday to draft letters to Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, Pat Sajak and David Letterman. (AP)

GREER, South Carolina: Never in his 27 years of practice has Dr. William Helton Jr. delivered a baby as huge as Joshua Leonard, who arrived weighing 14.5 pounds (6.6 kilograms).

"He's just like a little red butterball turkey," said Joshua's mother, Teresa Leonard. "He has so much fat he can barely open his eyes."

"I never even delivered one close to that," said Helton, who delivered the 22.1-inch (57-centimetre) infant Friday at Allen Bennett Memorial hospital.

Joshua is the largest baby born at the hospital, and is one of the largest in the state of South Carolina, Helton said. (AP)

NEW YORK: The amazing Kreskin will not be buying an 18-room Victorian mansion on the Hudson River that local lore says is haunted by three ghosts.

Kreskin, who calls himself the world's leading mentalist, had considered buying the house, located in Nyack north of New York City, if the ghosts proved to be real. He had planned a séance to determine whether they are.

But William Ackley, son of owner Helen Ackley, decided to charge media members \$50,000 to attend the séance. "We felt we were exploited. We were getting tired of the hassles and headaches," Ackley said Monday. (AP)

NEW YORK: Fans and curiosity-seekers who packed a Bette Davis auction Wednesday marvelled at some precious prices, including a crayon drawing of the star that fetched \$23,100.

The 16-by-20 inch (40-by-50-centimetre) drawing by designer Edith Head depicted a black-gowned Miss Davis in the movie "All About Eve." The picture, whose pre-sale estimate was \$1,200 to \$1,800, and other items from the late actress's estate attracted lively bidding at the William Doyle galleries in Manhattan.



Julio Gonzalez (centre) is arraigned on murder and arson charges concerning the Bronx social club fire on March 25, in New York on Wednesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Arsonist pleads 'not guilty'

Charged of murder in NY club fire

NEW YORK, April 13. (UPI): A man accused of torching the Happy Land Social Club in a fit of jealousy was arraigned on 174 counts of murder — two for each of the 87 victims that died in the smoky blaze.

Julio Gonzalez, 36, a Cuban immigrant, pleaded "not guilty" in Spanish before Justice Burton Roberts in state supreme court in the Bronx.

Gonzalez, wearing a three-piece brown suit but no shirt, was arraigned on 87 counts of second-degree murder for showing "depraved indifference to human life" and 87 counts of felony murder — arson where lives are lost.

He also was charged with one count each of first-degree arson, second-degree arson, second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault. Authorities said Gonzalez confessed to setting the fire.

The entire sale had been expected to bring up to \$103,000, but the final tally was \$221,336, according to Lewis Weber a spokesman for the gallery. (AP)

SANTA MONICA, California: Singer Olivia Newton-John, well known for her environmental activism, is damaging a stretch of the California coastline, her Malibu neighbours charged in a superior court civil complaint.

Miss Newton-John and her husband, actor Matt Lattanzi, have removed tonnes of dirt and sand since last July in preparation for building a home overlooking Escondido beach.

Angry neighbours say huge amounts of dirt, sand and debris have been dumped into the ocean and have polluted the water and washed up on their property.

The Seacrest Estates Homeowners Association Inc. filed a civil complaint in Santa Monica superior court last week, seeking an undisclosed amount of compensation and an injunction to prevent further harm to the coastline. (AP)

Roberts set April 25 for the next court hearing and ordered Gonzalez returned to the psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital.

His court-appointed attorney, Richard Berne, said he would await further psychiatric evaluations before deciding on an insanity defence for the worst mass slaying in the continental United States.

Authorities said Gonzalez dumped a dollar's worth of gasoline in the entranceway of the illegal social club in a rundown section of the Bronx March 25 after quarrelling with his girlfriend, Lydia Feliciano, 45, an employee at the club.

The club, jammed mostly with recent arrivals from Honduras, had no back exits and its windows were barred when the blaze began about 3:40 am that Sunday morning.

"I'm drunk," he told Michigan state state police officers when he walked off the four-engine Lockheed Electra at Willow Run airport in Ypsilanti early Wednesday morning.

The troopers were there because the pilot, startled in mid-flight by the appearance of Hamza radioed that he had a stowaway.

Pulitzer prizes Washington daily wins

NEW YORK, April 13. (AP): The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Washington (DC) Daily News won Pulitzer prizes for public service journalism yesterday, the Inquirer for reporting on the blood industry, and the Daily News for revealing that the city water supply was contaminated with carcinogens.

The San Jose Mercury News won the prize for general news reporting for its coverage of the northern California earthquake and its aftermath.

The Prizes, recognising outstanding work in journalism and the arts, are presented annually by Columbia University.

Lou Kilzer and Chris Ivis of the Minneapolis St Paul Star Tribune in Minnesota won the Pulitzer for investigative reporting for stories that exposed local citizens' links to members of the St Paul fire department, and the citizens' alleged profiteering from fires.

The explanatory journalism prize went to David A. Vise and Steve Coll of the Washington Post for stories scrutinising the securities and exchange commission and its former chairman, John Shad.

Tamar Stieber of the Albuquerque Journal won the Pulitzer for specialised reporting for stories that linked a rare blood disorder to an over-the-counter dietary supplement, L-tryptophan. The reporting led to a national recall of the product.

The winners in national reporting were Ross Anderson, Bill Dietrich, Mary Ann Gwynn and Eric Nalder of the Seattle Times for coverage of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and its aftermath.

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudman of the New York Times won the international reporting prize for their coverage of political turmoil in China.

Dave Curtin of the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph won the feature writing prize for his account of a family's struggle after its members were burned in an explosion that devastated its home.

Jim Murray of the Los Angeles Times won the commentary prize for his sports columns, and Allan Temko of the San Francisco Chronicle received the criticism prize for his writing on architecture.

The prize for editorial writing went to Thomas J. Hyton of the Mercury of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, for editorials about a bond issue to preserve farmland and open space in rural Pennsylvania. Tom Toles of the Buffalo News won the editorial cartooning prize.

In photography, the Tribune of Oakland, California, won the spot news prize for photographs of the devastation caused by last year's northern California earthquake. In feature photography, the winner was David C. Turnley of the Detroit Free Press for photographs of the uprisings in China and Eastern Europe.

Pulitzer winners receive \$3,000 in each category except public service, for which the prize is a gold medal.

The awards were first given in 1917. Prizes are awarded by the trustees of Columbia on the recommendation of an advisory board. Juries draw up a list of entries for the board's consideration, but the board is not confined to their recommendations.

Cuban-American Oscar Hijuelos book, "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love," won the 1990 Pulitzer prize for fiction. The drama prize went to August Wilson for "The Piano Lesson," his second Pulitzer since 1987.

Stanley Karnow's book, "In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines," won for history.

Dayne on top of US charts

NEW YORK, April 13. (AP): Taylor Dayne's *Love Will Lead You Back* made it to the number one position among best selling single pop records in the United States. The disc was in second position a week ago.

Be Your Favorite by Tommy Page topped up two notches to second spot on the Cash Box magazine chart, and *All Around The World* by Lisa Stansfield moved from fifth to third.

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. 2) Love Will Lead You Back — Taylor Dayne (Arista).
2. 4) I'll Be Your Everything — Tommy Page (Sire-Warner Brothers).
3. 5) All Around The World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista).
4. 3) I Wish It Would Rain — Phil Collins (Atlantic).
5. 1) Black Velvet — All'annah Myles (Atlantic).
6. 6) Don't Want To Fall In Love — Jane Child (Warner Brothers).
7. 16) Nothing Compares To You — Sinéad O'Connor (Chrysalis).
8. 10) Here And Now — Luther Vandross (Epic).
9. 9) Get Up Before The Night Is Over — Technologic (SBK).
10. 12) Forever — Kiss (Mercury-Polygram).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. 2) Love On Arrival — Dan Seals (Capitol).
2. 4) Walkin', Talkin', Cryin' — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).
3. 1) Here In The Real World — Alan Jackson (Arista).
4. 5) Help Me Make It On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).
5. 9) Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA).
6. 7) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA).
7. 8) It Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).
8. 3) Hard Rock Bottom — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
9. 11) The Domino Theory — Steve Wariner (MCA).
10. 13) I Watched It All (On My Radio) — Lionel Cartwright (MCA).

And in London, Snap attached itself to first place on the British pop singles chart this week with its new hit *The Power*, while Madonna's *Vogue* jumped up five spots to second position.

Step On by Happy Mondays moved up one spot to third, and Allannah Myles broke into the top 10 with *Black Velvet* in fourth spot. *Kingsmen Town* by UB40 rounded out the top five, moving up from 15th place.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by *Our Price Music Ltd.*, the national music retail chain, with last week's positions in parentheses:

1. 1) The Power — Snap (Arista).
2. 7) Vogue — Madonna (Sire).
3. 4) Step On — Happy Mondays (Factory).
4. 15) Black Velvet — Allannah Myles (Atlantic).
5. 21) Kingston Town — UB40 (Dep International).
6. 2) Strawberry Fields Forever — Candy Flip (Debut).
7. 3) Love Shack — B-52s (Reprise).
8. 8) Don't Miss The Partyline — Bizz Nizz (Columbia).
9. 5) Lily Was Here — David A. Sussman (Atlantic).
10. 11) Ghetto Heaven — Family Stand (Atlantic).

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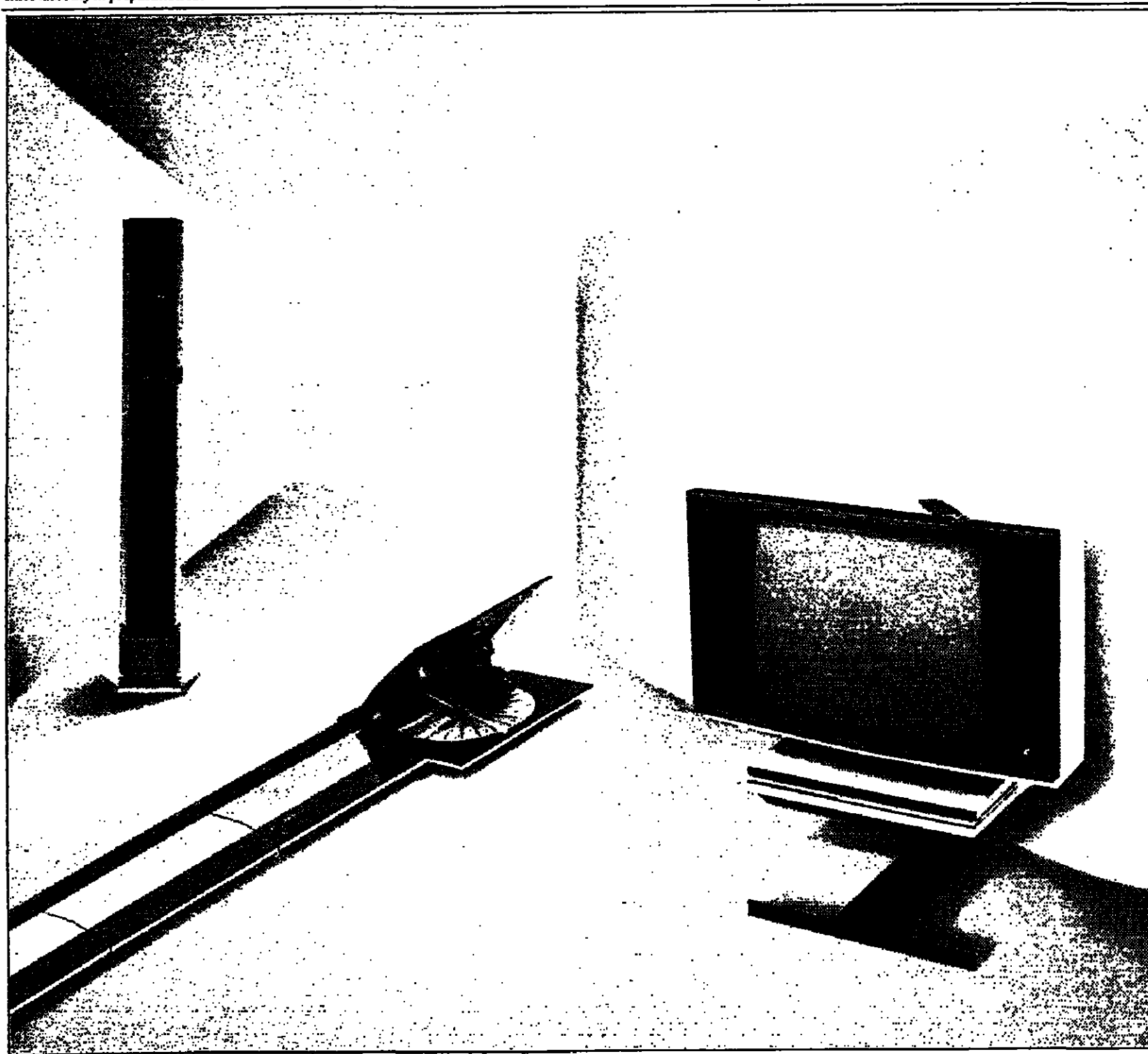
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World News Roundup

America

Premeditated murder: A jury on Thursday convicted a mild-mannered accountant and former Sunday school teacher of the premeditated murder of his wife, mother and three children in their suburban mansion 18 years ago.

John E. List, 64, had admitted the killings, but his attorney sought a verdict of second-degree murder, which carries a 30-year maximum sentence and possible parole after a third of the term.

Instead, the jury found List guilty of five counts of first-degree murder, an offence that carries a life term with no parole until after 15 years. (AP)

Innocent by reason of insanity: A Milwaukee judge ruled on Thursday that a woman was insane when she tried to kill a man in what was portrayed as a ritual honouring Jack the Ripper.

Deborah Kazack, 27, was ordered sent to a psychiatric hospital by Circuit Judge William D. Gardner after he found her innocent by reason of insanity. She had been charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide. A jury earlier on Thursday convicted her of the charge; the judge decided whether she should be sent to prison or a psychiatric hospital. (AP)

Governor pleads guilty: Former West Virginia Gov. Arch A. Moore could serve up to 36 years in prison for kickbacks, coverups and other crimes after pleading guilty to federal charges on Thursday in Charleston. His Democratic successor, Gov. Gaston Caperton, said Moore's decision on Thursday to plead guilty to five federal charges helps explain the state's current severe financial woes. Moore, a Republican, served three terms in the heavily Democratic state.

"I am confident that West Virginians will realize that not only did I inherit a government that was financially bankrupt, but ethically bankrupt as well," Caperton said. (AP)

Soul singer Brown moved: Soul singer James Brown starts a new phase of his prison term Thursday as he moved to a work-release centre after serving 15 months of a six-year sentence for aggravated assault, a corrections official said in Columbia, South Carolina.

Brown will work for the Aiken-Barnwell county community action commission, making speeches to young people about not using illegal drugs and alcohol, said Francis X. Archibald, a spokesman for the State Department of Corrections. Brown, 56, left the State Park Correctional Centre in Columbia and arrived at the Lower Savannah Work Centre near Aiken, Archibald said. (AP)

Ex-circus razor eater convicted: A former circus performer who prosecutors said can swallow and regurgitate sharp objects at the blade was never found. Benjamin Carnesolas, 36, was convicted on Tuesday in Lee's Summit, Missouri, of assault for cutting the neck of municipal corrections institutions officer John Wickizer on Oct. 29. The injury required about nine stitches.

The defence said reasonable doubt existed because no one found the razor blade. (AP)

Treasure trial continues: Nearly 133 years after the SS Central America sank in a hurricane, a second storm is churning up over who has claim to its cargo of gold ingots, coins and passengers' fortunes estimated at up to \$1 billion in Norfolk, Virginia.

A lawsuit to establish whether the treasure had ever been abandoned originally pitted the Columbus-America Discovery Group, a group of 100 investors who used space-age technology to find the wreck, and 45 insurance companies who claim rights to the treasure. (AP)

Broadcaster Seavard recollects: Nearly 50 years ago, broadcaster Eric Seavard saw Ronald Reagan on a Warner Brothers movie lot and immediately identified him as "Mr. America."

It was 1941, and as a reporter for then fledgling CBS News, Seavard also met Warner Brothers stars like Gary Cooper and Marlene Dietrich. But Reagan most impressed him. Seavard recalled on Monday night in a speech at central Missouri State University.

"You could see immediately he was the eagle scout, Mr. America," Seavard said. (AP)

Walsh vows to plough ahead: Lawrence Walsh, special prosecutor in the Iran-Contra scandal, on Thursday professed weariness after the three-year investigation but vowed to plough ahead anyway.

Entire government agencies involved in the Iran arms sales and Contra aid schemes could be explored, he said. (Kuna)

Official tours detention centres: A high-ranking federal immigration official toured a detention centre for illegal immigrants on Thursday amid allegations by detainees of beatings and sexual harassment.

"We take allegations of this nature seriously," said Mike Lemper, who oversees all camps operated by the US Immigration and Naturalisation Services Camps. (AP)

Quebec-US ties: The American government listened in to conversations of the separatist Parti Quebecois leader and ex-premier of Quebec Rene Levesque when he took power in 1976.

And relations between the Parti Quebecois and the US government were so close that the US government was often told about key Quebec government decisions before Quebecers knew themselves. (Kuna)

Bush popular among blacks: President George Bush is popular among US blacks, according to a poll released on Thursday in New York.

Bush got an approval rating of 56 per cent among blacks, far exceeding the 13 per cent that his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, got after about the same amount of time.

The poll was sponsored by the CBS Television Network and the New York Times newspaper. (AP)

Toxins found in navy ventilators: The US Navy has found PCB toxins in the ventilation systems of scores of its ships and submarines. It was disclosed on Wednesday.

An apparently classified navy message, obtained by a Bremerton, Washington newspaper, refers to "extreme hazard" if the contaminated material in the vents is disturbed.

The material — present in commonly-used gaskets — is said not to be harmful in itself. But it can be if high-temperature welding and cutting-torch work is done nearby, the internal navy message points out. (Kuna)

Europe

TV to help avert air disaster: British experts on Wednesday unveiled a new video television system which could avert air disasters by allowing pilots to see the outside of their aircraft.

The royal aircraft establishment said it had successfully tested a tiny camera, fitted to the tail of an airliner, which gave pilots a view of parts of the aircraft, such as wings and engines, which are normally invisible from the cockpit. (Reuters)

Treatment of broken bones: Every year 20,000 Britons are left with permanent disability due to inadequate treatment for broken bones, top British surgeons warned Thursday.

The British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) said a nation-wide survey of bone operations showed 20 per cent of patients, some 40,000 people, suffered avoidable complications or pain, it was pointed out. (Kuna)

German games board auctioned: A 17th century German games board made of amber, with amber chessmen and checkers pieces, sold in London on Thursday for £330,000 pounds (\$541,200), a world auction record for any games board, Sotheby's said. (AP)

Irish get tough on drunken drivers: Convicted drunk drivers in Northern Ireland will have to pass another driving test before being allowed back behind the wheel and then drive at a restricted speed for a year, displaying a special car plate. (Reuters)

Mayor wants symbol back: The mayor of Venice called on Wednesday for the Winged Lion of St Mark, the city's symbol, to be returned to its column by the lagoon after an absence of nearly five years. (Reuters)

Anti-graffiti paint: Soccer hooligans intent on spraying Italy's art treasures with graffiti during this summer's World Cup may be in for a frustrating time.

Art conservation experts said on Wednesday they were studying a proposal to spray monuments, including Rome's colosseum, with a transparent anti-graffiti paint now in use on the London underground railway. (Reuters)

Mammoth skeleton found: Children hunting for wild asparagus in hills north of Rome on Thursday found the skeleton of a mammoth, the gigantic elephant that roamed Europe in prehistoric times.

Police quoted a Rome historian who examined the skeleton, found near the village of Rignano Flaminio, as saying it was between 600,000 and one million years old. (Reuters)

Spanish poet wins world prize: A Spanish poet won the Golden Wreath award Thursday at the world poetry festival in Struga, in the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Justo Jorge Pedron, a poet for 20 years, has written nine collections of which the two most famous are "Circles of Hell" and "In Sunny Waters." (UPI)

Convicted through ear impression: A man accused of more than 30 break-ins was identified and convicted in court through ear impressions he left on the doors of burglarized apartments.

A Lausanne court Tuesday sentenced Gregoire Roman, a 39-year-old Romanian exile, to three years in prison. (AP)

CIA interested in Ziegler: A Swiss daily Wednesday printed a copy of a letter sent by the national councillor, Jean Ziegler, to the President of Switzerland, Arnold Koller, informing him that two agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have attempted to extract information about him from the office of the attorney-general.

The letter, appearing in the Tribune de Geneve, said "two agents of the North American CIA, the 'diplomats' Eric Carlson and James Gleason, attaches of the US mission to the United Nations in Geneva, have on several occasions asked the federal police and the attorney of the confederation for files concerning me." Ziegler states that these files were finally handed to these agents. (Kuna)

Pope celebrates last supper: Pope John Paul II washed the feet of 12 elderly priests on Thursday as he commemorated Christ's Last Supper at a mass celebrated for thousands of people.

Earlier, he said Holy Thursday mass in St Peter's Basilica, leading some 2,000 clergymen in renewing their priestly vows. (AP)

Review bluffs embarrasses paper: A journalism student's review of a non-existent book embarrassed a leading newspaper, which missed the pun and printed it.

The review of a novel called "Surface" was about a future when writers no longer write books, only reviews, because people have become too superficial to read literary works.

It was written by Ulf Ekblom, a journalism student who had contributed before to Sweden's second-biggest morning daily, Gotteborgsposten. (AP)

Smog snitches calling in: People in California who are angry about cars and trucks belching smoke are "snitching" on violators in record numbers, environmental officials say.

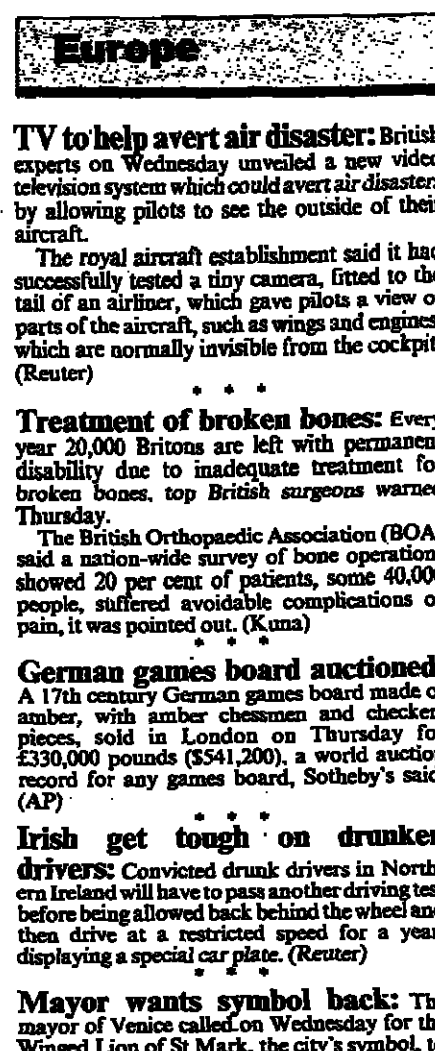
A state advertising campaign has encouraged Californians to call a "smog snitch" telephone hotline and report the license plate numbers of vehicles that spew large amounts of dark exhaust. (AP)

No timetable on global warming: The US government will call for broader research into the economic effects of global warming but propose no timetable for dealing with the issue at upcoming international talks, senior officials said on Thursday in Washington.

The two-day conference, which begins here on Tuesday, will bring together ministers from 17 countries as well as the European Economic Community for a discussion of the economic impact of global warming and what additional scientific data is needed. (AP)

World ozone pollution may rise: Average global levels of the air pollutant ozone may increase 21 per cent to 50 per cent by the year 2020, making local efforts to control the pollution harder, a study in New York suggests.

Ozone is a form of oxygen that plays both positive and negative effects. At high altitudes in the atmosphere it shields the Earth from solar rays that can promote skin cancer. But near the Earth's surface it is a pollutant that irritates sensitive lung tissues and harms crops. (AP)



Immersion record

French diver Pierre Bardina reads a magazine as he starts a claimed world record immersion attempt in the Prado aquarium in Marseille, on Wednesday. Bardina hopes to spend five days under water and will be assisted by a team of scientists who will monitor an encephalogram. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Black Star' Awarded

WASHINGTON, April 13. (KUNA): International airline pilots have awarded a "Black Star" to areas around seven US airports they say are among the world's worst.

The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) meeting here, said the following cities were "critically deficient" in safety for their airports: Charlotte, North Carolina; Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee and Phoenix, Arizona.

The pilots, who do not mention the airports themselves, charge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) improperly manages the airspace around the seven airports.

The FAA and flight controllers, asked about the new "conflict resolution" system for keeping planes separated, told the Wall Street Journal it was working out pretty well.

The aviation officials said no one had been hurt since the still-experimental system was put into effect in 1988.



Helfner's son

Hugh and Kim Helfner show off their new son, Martson Glenn on the day of his birth on April 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parents sue Clorox: The parents of a girl who drank a glass of fresh scent Clorox she mistook for water have sued the bleach manufacturers, claiming they had an obligation to make a potentially harmful product smell bad.

It was reported in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The accident, on Oct. 7, 1988, left Rebecca Casuro, now 16, with scar tissue that clogs her esophagus, requiring frequent operations, said her mother, Patricia Casuro. (UPI)

Smog snitches calling in: People in California who are angry about cars and trucks belching smoke are "snitching" on violators in record numbers, environmental officials say.

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Ozone is a form of oxygen that plays both positive and negative effects. At high altitudes in the atmosphere it shields the Earth from solar rays that can promote skin cancer. But near the Earth's surface it is a pollutant that irritates sensitive lung tissues and harms crops. (AP)



Gossiping girls

Schoolgirl gossip in the Kinki region of western Japan is holding up rush-hour trains, the state railway operator said on Thursday.

The railway company said a survey showed the schoolgirls were regularly delaying departures by more than one minute. Worried by the delays, the West Japan Railway Company has begun distributing 20,000 etiquette cards to high-school students urging them to be quicker boarding and leaving the trains.

In the picture giggling women hold up rail etiquette cards with heat-sensitive health checker panels — decorated with cute rabbit motifs — to measure one's temperature. The cards also have instructions on train boarding manner. (Reuters wirephoto)



Jeanne White and Elton John share a last moment with Ryan White at funeral services in Indianapolis. (Reuters wirephoto)



Singer Michael Jackson arrives at the funeral of Ryan White at the Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. Jackson gave White a car and called himself Ryan's friend. (Reuters wirephoto)



Barbara Bush, wife of President Bush, attends the funeral of Ryan White in Indianapolis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Teenager who helped change Aids attitudes

Barbara attends funeral of White

INDIANAPOLIS, April 13 (AP): More than 1,500 friends and admirers, including first lady Barbara Bush and singer Michael Jackson, attended the funeral on Wednesday of Ryan White, a teen-ager who helped change attitudes about Aids in the United States.

"Ryan and his family always believed there would be a miracle," the Rev. Raymond Probasco said in his eulogy. "But that didn't happen. I believe God gave us that miracle in Ryan. He healed a wounded spirit in the world and made it whole."

Singer Elton John, who had maintained a bedside vigil during Ryan's final week of life, led the congregation in singing a hymn, then accompanied himself as he sang his own composition, "Skyline Pigeon."

Probasco noted that many celebrities had

attended Ryan during his struggle with Aids and his legal battle to attend public school. He said Ryan's life, like theirs, also was successful.

"He helped us to care and to believe that with God's help, nothing is impossible, even for a kid."

John, wearing a black sequined hat, served as a pallbearer with Los Angeles Raiders football player howie long, talk-show host Phil Donahue and three local friends of Ryan: Tommy Hale, Leo Joseph and John Huffman.

White and his mother won a court battle to allow him to attend public school in Kokomo. He appeared on television talk shows and magazine covers and at Washington hearings as a spokesman for young sufferers of Aids. He later found friendship and acceptance when he attended Hamilton Heights high school in Arcadia.

Ryan died on Sunday of complications from the disease. He was a hemophiliac who acquired Aids more than five years ago through a blood transfusion.

Gov. Evan Bayh ordered flags across Indiana to fly at half-staff in tribute to White.

Former President Reagan, who with his wife Nancy, joined Ryan in the youth's last public appearance two weeks ago in Los Angeles, remembered him in a newspaper column as a young man of patience and kindness who did not wallow in self-pity.

"Ryan accepted his situation with awe-inspiring courage and magnanimity. He did not run and hide, and he graciously accepted the public responsibilities thrust on his young shoulders," Reagan wrote in the tribute published on Wednesday in the Washington Post.

Dutch detectives held: Two Dutch detectives have been arrested on suspicion of large-scale drug dealing, the Amsterdam public prosecutor said on Wednesday.

The two, based in Amsterdam, were arrested last Friday as they negotiated to buy 100 kg (220 pounds) of hashish from two drug dealers in a hotel near Schiphol airport, spokesman Leo de Wit said. (Reuters)

Japan grant for Red Cross: Eleven Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in developing countries will receive grants totaling 333,000 Swiss francs under the 69th distribution of income from the Empress Shoken Fund, according to a joint statement made in Geneva by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Set up in 1912, the fund was a gift from her imperial majesty of Japan, for encouraging the development of humanitarian activities among national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (Kuna)

Canadian officials leave for Bonn: Canadian government officials will go to West Germany to press for action against a former SS general accused of ordering the execution of Canadian prisoners of war in 1944, an external affairs department spokesman said.

The spokesman, Robert Peck, said on Wednesday Canadian representatives would meet officials in Bonn to present new evidence against the former officer, Wilhelm Mohrke, 78. (Reuters)

Focus on workaholics: A television commercial that has been running for months features a song has become a hit record recently in Japan as it focuses on workaholics.

The commercial shows a hardened Japanese salesman in Europe singing. "Can you fight 24 hours a day. Your briefcase is a symbol of the battlefield."

The commercial is one of a range of medicinal drinks designed to help businessmen maintain their stamina during long working days. (Kuna)

Entrance exams: The pressure of college entrance exams has led to more class hours and required courses in the nation's public high schools, the Education Ministry said Thursday.

Of Japan's 3,893 public high schools, 12.4 per cent require more than 35 hours of classes per week, up from 7.9 per cent in 1982, when the ministry urged high schools to reduce classes to 32 hours per week, according to a ministry survey. (AP)

Fire kills one: A fire blamed on extreme leftists took a human life when the home of an aviation maintenance company executive was



Miss Photogenic

Miss Thailand 1990 Pasarporn Chalmongkol, smiles after winning the title of Miss Photogenic in the 1990 Miss Universe beauty contest on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

burned to the ground early Friday, Japanese police reported.

The body of Fumie Kubota, 53, was found in her two-story home in Kamakura, near here. Her husband Atsumasa Kubota, 66, an executive of Japan Aircraft Manufacturing Co., escaped with his life, police said. He suffered burns that will require one month's treatment. (Kuna)

Dearth of priests: A dearth of priests has led the major sect of Buddhism to close some temples and merge others with nearby temples, reports indicated Thursday.

An increasing number of Buddhist temples have no resident priests, due to location in

depopulated areas or inability to find successors to retiring priests, temple sources said. (Kuna)

Shells wound five: American soldiers on a routine training mission accidentally shelled the area around a bridge leading to the heavily fortified Korean border, US officials said Thursday.

Five US and South Korean soldiers were wounded.

A guardpost at one end of the Freedom Bridge, frequently used by tourist buses, was destroyed, witnesses said. The bridge itself was undamaged in the incident, which occurred Wednesday. (AP)

Kim's birthday: Communist North Korea is swamped with sports meets, international arts festivals and other festive events this month celebrating the 78th birthday of its leader, President Kim Il Sung, news reports said Thursday.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, said North Korea has invited about 100 artists' troupes from 60 countries as part of the celebration of Kim's April 15 birthday. (AP)

Venom export: The owner of an Australian snake venom company said Thursday he has collected about 180 of the country's deadliest reptiles in a bid to break into what he hopes will be a lucrative export market.

Peter Mitschin, owner of Venom Supplies, says the snakes have been collected at a refinery in the Barossa Valley near Adelaide, the capital of south Australia state. (AP)

Elections soon: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said on Thursday that general elections would be held soon, although he gave no firm date.

Mahathir told reporters his 11-party coalition government had begun preparing a manifesto and election operations units in parliamentary seats would shortly be set up. (Reuters)

Fugitive flees: Swiss fugitive Bruno Manser who overstayed in Sarawak, a timber-rich state in east Malaysia to "champion" the cause of the nomadic Penans for almost six years has slipped out of the state and returned to Switzerland, according to a report today.

The report quoted a Zurich-based organization which calls itself "Society for Threatened Peoples" as saying that Manser had given an interview to the Swiss media about his "adventure" in Borneo on his return to Zurich. (Kuna)

Leaking toilets: China has launched a three-year campaign to stop the nation's toilets leaking, confident it has overcome the defects of socialist plumbing.

Dripping toilet systems in countless Chinese homes were wasting 200 million tonnes of water a year, the official economic information newspaper said on Friday.

Castro to end bias against religious

HAVANA, April 13. (Agencies). Cuban President Fidel Castro has promised to end discrimination against Cuban Christians and other religious believers and work towards allowing them to join the country's ruling Communist Party.

"We're going to end this discrimination as soon as possible... that is the overwhelming feeling, without exception, in the party leadership," Castro told a meeting of the Cuban ecumenical council last week.

Detailed excerpts of the April 2 meeting were shown at length on state television on Monday and Tuesday.

But while making clear the party leadership wanted to end discrimination, the Cuban leader clearly appeared to condition this to a position of allegiance from Cuban Christians to the country's socialist system.

"On this basis of confidence, on this basis of principles of defence of the country and defence of the revolution... everything is possible," Castro said.

The ecumenical council groups all of the country's churches and faiths except the biggest, the Roman Catholic church, whose relations with the communist government have been the most strained in the past.

Castro said it was unjust that Christians who were also patriotic Cubans should continue to be discriminated against in their work and daily lives and could not currently be members of the ruling Communist Party.

"This exclusion is a discrimination... the party should be for everyone," he said.

His comments indicated a further major move by the Cuban government to improve its relations with the country's religious groups. The Communist Party daily Granma on Wednesday called the meeting "a dialogue of brothers."

Cuba accused the United States on Wednesday of escalating its electronic war against the island by interfering with a Cuban television programme featuring Castro.

An official statement said a broadcast by the US-funded TV Marti interfered for 35 minutes with a programme on Cuba's state channel 13 in the early hours of Wednesday showing Castro meeting religious leaders last week.

"This morning's action represents an escalation that aggravates the situation created by TV Marti," the statement said.

Cuban officials declined to say whether or how Havana would retaliate. Castro has said Cuba will respond "blow for blow" for every escalation in the electronic war which began when TV Marti started test broadcasts last March 27.

Panama: An Army paratrooper 1st Sgt. Roberto Enrique Bryan has been charged with premeditated murder and aggravated assault stemming from incidents that allegedly occurred during the US invasion of Panama, army officials said Wednesday.

The charge is the most serious action taken by army officials against a soldier in the aftermath of the military operation, which was launched in December.

Mexico: The Indian campesino who first saw the virgin of Guadalupe will be beatified May 6 during Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico, cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada said Thursday.

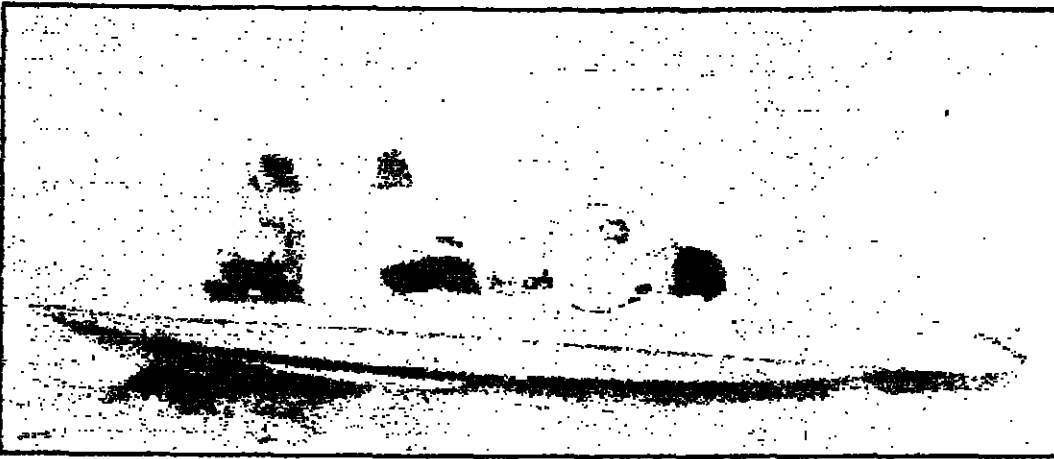
The ceremony, a step toward canonisation of Juan Diego, will be held during a mass at the basilica of Guadalupe two hours after the pope arrives in Mexico, the cardinal, archbishop of Mexico City, said at a news conference.

Suriname: Three Surinamese men were arrested Wednesday in connection with murder of a Soviet diplomat who was shot to death during an apparent robbery, police said.

The unidentified suspects were captured in the western district of Nickerie, which borders Guyana on the northeastern tip of South America, while trying to sell the diplomat's car, said Inspector Ronald Gayadhar, a police spokesman.



Police and army personnel remove the bodies of policemen from the site of a car bomb explosion April 11 (Reuters wirephoto)



Escobar (circled) photograph taken last month in Cocorna, some 75 kms from Medellin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bogota drug traffickers claim

Car bomb kills 21

MEDELLIN, Colombia, April 13. (Agencies). The mayor of Medellin yesterday urged negotiations to end Colombia's drug war after a car bomb attack on an elite police unit killed up to 21 people.

"I appeal to everybody to come to their senses, stop murdering each other and stop this useless, fratricidal war which will necessarily have to end at the negotiating table. Let's do it now," Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez said in a radio interview.

"I have insisted that we must seek peace. You do not seek peace with bombs, kidnappings, deaths and disappearances," Gomez said.

The police put the toll of Wednesday's attack, which blew up a truck carrying members of the elite unit, at 14 people killed and 12 injured.

The Red Cross said, however, that the blast, just south of Medellin, Colombia's cocaine capital, killed 21 and injured 101.

Drug traffickers have claimed responsibility for the car bomb attack in Medellin and vowed that their terrorist campaign would leave no police officer alive.

Medellin's police force drastically increased checkpoints and patrols yesterday the day after the explosion, in expectation of more attacks.

The bomb, packing an estimated 220 pounds (100 kilograms) of dynamite, exploded on a busy highway as a truck carrying 21 police officers passed by. The explosion wounded more than 100 people and severely damaged buildings and cars in the industrial sector, police said.

Anonymous callers to local newspapers said the attack was carried out by the extraditables, as the cocaine traffickers call themselves.

National police chief General Miguel Gomez Padilla yesterday predicted the imminent capture of Pablo Escobar, fugitive head

Millions in drums

Spending wildly

VEGA BAJA, Puerto Rico, April 13. (AP). Residents of this coastal town have been spending wildly after finding "extraordinary amounts of money" that drug dealers may have buried in steel drums, officials said.

US Attorney Daniel Lopez Romo said in a telephone interview from San Juan that the FBI began interviewing residents two weeks ago, after word spread that several people went on a spending binge following the discovery of the steel drums.

"We know one drum had \$1.5 million and there were several drums. So you can speculate that we're talking about extraordinary amounts of money," Lopez said.

People stopped in the street here yesterday told a reporter little, giving differing versions of where the steel drums were buried. Some said it was in a farmer's field, others the beach.

Lopez said location of the buried treasure couldn't be disclosed because "there would be a gold rush to the site."

He said it's not known where the money came from, but it's believed the drums packed with cash belonged to drug traffickers.

"That's one of the strongest possibilities, but I can't say with certainty," he said. "It's probable that somebody knew where it was buried and they blew the whistle."

He said officials became suspicious because residents were spending "\$100,000, \$200,000 and \$300,000, great sums," on luxury items.

Newspapers said local sales of houses, boats, cars and VCRs were brisk until a car mechanic paid \$170,000 in cash for a house and a sports car and deposited \$50,000 in a bank. Bank officials got suspicious and called the authorities, according to the reports.

Vega Baja is a coastal area of some 30,000 people about 35 miles (55 kilometres) west of San Juan, the capital.

of the Medellin cocaine cartel.

"Colombians can be sure that Pablo Escobar will fall into the hands of the authorities at any minute," Caracol Radio quoted Gomez Padilla as saying.

Police said yesterday they had detained six people after discovering four unidentified skeletons in a common grave on an estate belonging to Fidel Castano, believed to be military leader of the Medellin cartel.

They said the three men and a woman, found near Villanueva, 400 km (250 miles) northwest of Bogota, had been shot 17 months

ago and buried with their hands bound.

The drug lords pledged last week to step up the war and to target policemen who they said were guilty of torture.

The country's third-ranking police officer, operations director general Octavio Vargas Silva, said police would not flinch in the face of the onslaught, which he said was directed by Escobar.

"If necessary, we will sent all members of the elite corps of the national police to counter the actions of that criminal," he told the El Tiempo newspaper.

FBI arrested man in '76 murder

Charged with killing of Letelier

WASHINGTON, April 13. (Reuters). The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it had arrested a fugitive charged over the 1976 murder of Orlando Letelier, an outspoken opponent of General Augusto Pinochet's Chilean military government.

Jose Suarez, 51, a naturalised US citizen, was arrested in St Petersburg, Florida, the FBI said in a statement. Suarez, who had been a fugitive since being charged in 1978, was due to appear before a magistrate in Tampa, Florida.

Letelier and an American associate, Ronni Moffitt, were killed when a bomb exploded as they were driving to work at the institute of policy studies in Washington.

Letelier had resigned his post as Chile's ambassador to the United States after a coup led by Pinochet overthrew the civilian government of Salvador Allende.

Suarez was charged in 1978 with conspiracy to murder a foreign official. The FBI said Suarez provided explosives and detonating devices for the bomb that killed

Letelier and Moffitt and built the bomb with Virgilio Pablo Paz and Michael Townley.

Paz, also a naturalised US citizen, is still a fugitive. Townley, a US citizen who was also an employee of the Chilean National Intelligence Agency, was arrested in 1978.

Three Chilean army officers were indicted by a US grand jury in 1978 in connection with the case. One, Major Armando Fernandez Larios, turned himself over to US authorities in 1987 but Chile has refused to extradite the other two.

Fujimori, who sold a house, his car and a tractor to raise campaign funds, spent \$180,000. He claims to be the only candidate truly independent of "professional politicians." But he has shown political skill, which some say he

honed during his years as a university rector in a country where universities are highly politicized.

In the early days of his campaign he posed for new photographers dressed as a samurai and as a karate expert breaking bricks with his bare hands. He joked in the interview that none of that is true but said it was necessary to get attention.

Within days after Sunday's vote, Vargas Llosa was huddling with advisers and pondering his political future at a friend's beach home south of Lima.

Star was in poor shape, says official

Ferry should never have left port

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, April 13. (AP). The Scandinavian Star was in such poor shape it should never have left port on the cruise that ended in a deadly explosion and fire, a senior ship's officer told a maritime inquiry yesterday.

Karsten Hansen, the ship's second-in-command, also said combustible materials and bedding were left in the ferry corridors while the ship underwent renovations.

Police in Oslo, Norway, lowered their estimate to 166 people killed in

the fire which swept through the 10,500-ton ferry on an overnight cruise from Norway to Denmark. Investigators believe the fire was set.

The ship's Danish operator, the Vr Da-No shipping line, posted a 250,000-kroner (\$39,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the arsonist.

"The authorities should never have allowed that ship to leave port," Hansen said on the second day of the inquiry. "Work was going on all over the ship."

Drug meet ends in UK

LONDON, April 13. (AP). The global drug summit ended Wednesday with 112 nations calling for action to cut demand, reduce supply and strip the "false glamour" from drugs.

The conference ended with the adoption of a 35-point platform that outlines measures to reduce the demand for drugs and combat the production and trafficking of cocaine.

Delegates from 112 countries agreed to greater co-operation to detect and halt drug trafficking and the laundering of drug money, and to monitor and control trade of chemicals used in the manufacture of illegal drugs.

They also pledged to try to reduce the demand for drugs at home through education — particularly of young people — to prevent drug abuse, by providing treatment to users, and stressing the link between drug abuse and Aids.

Earlier, doctors warned that the spread of Aids by drug users was increasing world-wide.

Delegates decisively rejected the legalisation of drugs but disagreed on the issue of punishment for drug abusers, though they did back alternatives to prison for offenders who want to undergo treatment.

US delegates had said users must be held accountable, but authorities from the Netherlands said drug abusers should be treated like alcoholics or smokers.

There was also disagreement over programmes to make sterile needles available to drug users to reduce the spread of Aids by infected needles. US Secretary of Health Dr Louis W. Sullivan questioned research findings showing such programmes did not promote increased drug use, and said the US government refused to fund any needle exchanges.

The 35-point declaration adopted at the end of the three-day conference sponsored by Britain and the United Nations noted that the drug market was no longer confined to industrialised nations, but had spread to developing countries.

The declaration called for action at the community, neighbourhood and family level, as well as at the national and international level, to prevent drug misuse. It said drug education should be started in elementary school.

The declaration committed delegates to giving higher priority to fighting drugs on all fronts — reducing demand, eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops and drug trafficking, preventing misuse of the financial and banking systems, and promoting effective treatment and rehabilitation. There should be "no safe havens for the proceeds of drug trafficking," it said.

Margaret Anstee, director-general of the UN office in Vienna and co-ordinator of all UN drug control-related activities, said funds for UN drug activities fell "pitifully short" of what is needed to defeat drug abuse. The UN fund for drug abuse control was operating on a \$70 million annual budget, she said.

The estimated value of drug trafficking is \$500 billion a year, she noted.



Ultimate Easter egg

The ultimate Easter egg was unveiled in London on Wednesday, made from 33 pounds (15 kilograms) of gold and nearly 20,000 pink diamonds and valued at \$7 million (\$11.5 million).

The 15-inch (37.5-centimetre) high egg opens electronically to reveal a revolving stand of miniature books and portraits in jewelled cabinets.

The egg sits on a matching, three-legged gold and diamond plinth nearly as high as itself.

It's called the Argyle library egg and was commissioned by Argyle Diamonds of Perth, western Australia, which markets the precious gems.

"We don't know who might be likely to buy it," confessed the egg's designer, Paul Kutchinsky (shown above) who runs a jewellery design business in London. (Reuters wirephoto)



Icing it the right way

Miss Soviet Union 1990, Eva Stalbovska is shown the proper way to ice a giant Easter egg by the pastry chef Raymond Holmeister April 12. Stalbovska represents her country in 1990 Miss Universe pageant which will be held on April 15. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prisoners keep officials guessing

UK jail siege

MANCHESTER, April 13. (Reuters). The ring-leaders of Britain's worst prison rebellion kept the authorities guessing yesterday — at first promising to end their 12-day occupation and then threatening to burn down the jail.

One of about 12 prisoners still holding out in Strangeways prison in the northern city of Manchester said he planned to give himself up in the next day or so, raising hopes the siege might be lifted later today.

Later another inmate appeared on the roof and yelled to waiting reporters: "We were going to come down. But there's been quite a change of plan. The prison's going to burn first. We're going to have a big bonfire."

The governor of Strangeways, Brendan O'Friel, has called the occupation the worst in British prison history. It began on April 1, when hundreds of inmates rioted, reducing much of the grim 19th-century jail to a burned out shell.

O'Friel has described the Strangeways rioting as an "explosion of evil," but one of the ring-leaders still in the jail said through his lawyer that it was a "peaceful sit-in protest" that had gone badly wrong.

Since the Strangeways riot, violence has spread to prisons up and down the country.

Yesterday, two teen-age prisoners barricaded themselves inside a cell at a prison in Wales.

A warder held prisoner at a Scottish high security jail by rioting inmates escaped unharmed on Wednesday and the prisoners surrendered to the authorities.

Home Secretary David Wadding-

ton has said 200 warders will be recruited immediately to help ease the prison crisis.

A prisoner officer who died of a heart attack after attempting to bring the rebellious Strangeways inmates under control was buried on Wednesday.

A prisoner died in hospital after being severely beaten in the revolt at the Manchester jail. So far there has been no confirmation of reports that more dead will be found when the whole of the prison is recaptured.

"Recognising the stress that the prison service has suffered, I have given instructions for the immediate recruitment of 200 additional officers planned for later in the year," Waddington said.

Waddington also said guards will be provided with riot gear. "We need more shields, helmets and protective clothing for dealing with disturbances," he said.

The Home Office said three prisoners at Strangeways, where the prison riots began, gave up Wednesday morning and another three surrendered in the afternoon, leaving fewer than 15 holding the central Rounda from which they can control access to the Victorian-era jail's five main wings.

"We are scaling it down and are hopeful that they will all come out soon," an official said. "There are only a handful left."

Authorities have been using loud music, swooping helicopters and other intimidatory tactics to try to break the resolve of the diehard inmates.

Carpenters and painters were finishing renovations of cabins, the saloon, and other areas of the ship, which the new Danish owner took over on March 30.

Service personnel often left bundles of bedding outside the passenger cabins they cleaned, creating a fire hazard, he said.

Hansen also said some of the catering staff complained of exhaustion from overwork, and said he'd heard of friction between crew members.

Rescued passengers complained that the crew, mostly Filipino and Portuguese sailors, appeared untrained to handle a crisis and could not communicate. A fire inspector testified earlier that serious faults were found with fire-containing devices, and firefighting equipment was unused.

According to the ship's emergency roster, Hansen was the ship's fire chief with the task of organizing the crew in an emergency.

But during tough questioning, he admitted he was unaware of the regulation and said he wasn't hired in that capacity.

Hansen said that he and another crewman donned fire suits and rescued three trapped, unconscious passengers before being taken off the stricken ship by rescue helicopters.

The Norwegian captain of the vessel, Hugo Larsen, denied in testimony on Wednesday that the safety defences were faulty. But he admitted the crew had not undergone a fire drill, which was scheduled for the day after the fire.

Eighty of the 97 crewmen had been hired within the week before the disaster, according to witnesses who appeared at the inquiry.

Steinhausen, a West German who had served on the ferry since 1988, contradicted the captain's testimony and that the officers were forced to abandon ship when the bridge was threatened. Larsen has been criticised for climbing into a lifeboat while passengers were still on board alive.

"We could have stayed a little longer, but there wasn't much chance of people still coming out" of the burning passenger area, he said.

One unidentified West German was discovered trying to swindle authorities for compensation by reporting five family members on board, a police official said.

Arson was the "highly probable" cause, but no motive has been found, said Oslo police chief Magnar Aukrust.

At the Copenhagen inquiry, fire inspector Flemming Jensen pinpointed fires in three separate places.

The first was in a pile of woolen blankets in a passageway outside a cabin below the car deck which was quickly doused by a ship's officer.

The other two began shortly afterwards in stairwells on either side of the ferry, Jensen said. The blaze leapt up the staircases, past several decks and burst into the main restaurant area, he said.

The three fires must have ignited independently, he said, but he did not speculate on their causes.

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Fujimori appears unbeatable as his popularity is growing daily

LIMA, April 13. (AP). Alberto Fujimori, a soft-spoken agricultural engineer who enjoys growing roses in his backyard, has suddenly become the man most likely to take the helm of Peru.

The 51-year-old Fujimori, of Japanese descent, came out of nowhere in Sunday's presidential election to block famed novelist Mario Vargas Llosa from a majority and force him into a runoff.

Pollsters say the centrist independent's popularity is growing daily as Vargas Llosa's support declines. With the likely support of leftist parties in a June runoff election, Fujimori

appears unbeatable.

The Lima press dubbed his rise the "Fujimori phenomenon." Headlines told of Vargas Llosa getting swept away by a "tsunami," a tidal wave of Fujimorism.

In one of his first interviews since the election, Fujimori told the Associated Press he was amazed by the inability of his political opponents to run an electoral campaign. "It makes me laugh that they've come out looking so ridiculous," he said.

He compared his campaign strategy to the martial arts. "You take advantage of the forces

of the other, boom boom, wherever they lead," he said, slicing his hand through an imaginary brick.

Vargas Llosa, also an independent, and his right-of-centre Democratic Front coalition spent more than \$3.6 million in his campaign, according to the respected news magazine Caracal.

Fujimori, who sold a house, his car and a tractor to raise campaign funds, spent \$180,000. He claims to be the only candidate truly independent of "professional politicians." But he has shown political skill, which some say he

INTERNATIONAL

Bush in excellent health

WASHINGTON, April 13, (UPI): President Bush was diagnosed as "in truly excellent health" Thursday after a lengthy annual physical that detected the early stages of glaucoma in his left eye.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, however, that "extensive visual testing revealed no loss of any aspect of his visual acuity" as a result of the glaucoma.

The President, speaking later with reporters, said he was not even aware of the condition that affects an estimated 2 million Americans and made a joking reference to critics during the campaign who said he lacked an overall vision.

"I take a drop now... one in the morning and one at night but the vision is very good on this," Bush said. "The vision thing is working well."

Reporting on the more than four hours of comprehensive tests, Fitzwater said most of his tests turned out normal, but "an early glaucoma on his left eye was detected" that will require permanent medication.

The glaucoma should not restrict his activities and Bush's personal physician, Dr. Burton Lee, declared the President healthy.

"President Bush is in truly excellent health," Fitzwater quoted the doctor as saying. "He continues to keep extremely fit through vigorous physical activities."

Bush, returning to the White House, flashed thumbs-up and declared "all is well." He told reporters later in the picture-taking session that he felt "very very good" about the test results at Bethesda Naval Hospital and that he has felt no symptoms of the glaucoma.

"I haven't felt a thing, haven't felt it at all," Bush said.

Greek antiques stolen
Unprecedented haul

ATHENS, April 13, (UPI): Thieves broke into a museum in ancient Corinth and stole a truckload of priceless antiques, after overpowering a lone guard, the semi-official Athens News Agency said yesterday.

Quoting police sources, the news agency said the theft occurred about 3 am Thursday (midnight GMT), at the ancient Corinth museum, some 60 miles (95 km) west of Athens.

The thieves broke in through a back door, overpowered and bound the lone guard, and emptied

display cases of priceless antiques dating back to classical times and earlier. They loaded the antiques onto a truck and made off, the news agency said.

The museum, built by the American school of classical studies in 1932-33, was presented to the Greek government in 1934. The American school, which kept an inventory of the museum pieces, is currently excavating at a site nearby and is still funding the museum.

ANA said the stolen antiques included a marble bust of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, 10 marble heads, 12 ancient plaster vases, two ceramic vases with decorations in relief, four clay statuettes and five clay vases.

The ancient Corinth museum is considered one of the richest and most interesting in the Greek provinces, with displays depicting the history of Corinth and the development of art from neolithic times to the middle ages.

Police said the front door of the museum was secured by an iron door which remained unopened.

"The audacity of the theft is unprecedented in the annals of Greek history," Culture Minister Tzannis Tzannetakis said in a statement released in Athens.

The thieves attacked a night-guard (2400 GMT) and left him gagged and bound before making off with the antiques dating from the 9th century BC to the 2nd century AD and a million drachmas (\$6,250) in cash.

Theophanis Kakouris, the 62-year-old watchman, suffering from fractures in his skull, jaw and ribs, was transferred to Evangelismos hospital in Athens, said a hospital spokesman.

The thieves climbed to the roof of the museum using a ladder and descended into the building's courtyard where they had easy access to the exhibition halls, said a spokesman.



Compo photograph showing two of the valuable items stolen on Thursday from the Corinth Archaeological museum. Left, a clay head of the goddess Aphrodite dated from 300 BC and right, clay head of god Serapis dated from 3rd century BC. (Reuters wirephoto)

Swiss to verify scrolls

GENEVA, April 13, (AP): Swiss scientists are likely to carbon-date for the first time the Dead Sea scrolls, which include the earliest known Biblical texts, in a process designed to settle a dispute on whether they were written long before or after the birth of Christ.

Professor Willy Wolfli, of the Zurich-based Federal Institute of Technology, said Wednesday he has unofficial word that Israeli authorities agreed to his conditions for performing the tests.

"It appears that the project will materialise," he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

31m Americans have no health insurance: Census

WASHINGTON, April 13, (AP): Nearly one in eight Americans has no health insurance, the census bureau reported.

The study concluded that 26.5 per cent of Hispanic Americans weren't covered in 1988, while the figure was 20.2 per cent for blacks and 11.7 per cent for whites.

The report comes as the Senate is considering a proposal to assure that all Americans have private or public health coverage.

The census estimate of 31.5 million people, or 13 per cent of all Americans, without health coverage is similar to estimates from the US bipartisan commission on comprehensive health care, which developed the recommendations being considered by the Senate.

The plan includes a potential \$65 billion annual price tag. In addition to people without any insurance coverage, the commission estimated that as many as 20 million have what it calls inadequate health coverage.

The age group least likely to have insurance protection was 16 to 24, with 21.9 per cent lacking coverage. About 16.2 per cent of those 25 to 34 were uninsured and 15.3 per cent of people under 16

lacked coverage.

In the 35 to 44 bracket, 11.2 per cent of people don't have insurance, while the rates are 10.5 per cent for those 45 to 54 and 9.3 per cent in the 55 to 64 group.

Only 0.3 per cent of people over 65 lack coverage because of the federal medicare programme.

The three groups included from 11,500, to 13,400 households with as many as 36,500 people interviewed in the various groups. The margin of error for a sample that size would be 1 percentage point or less.

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Beach holiday

Princess Diana is covered in sand by her son Prince William during a private beach holiday she is enjoying with her two sons on Wednesday. Her two sisters and their children are also staying with her on the private Necker Island, British Virgin Islands. (Reuters wirephoto)

I will not run away: Walesa

WARSAW, April 13, (AP): Lech Walesa, who this week made and then retracted a declaration of candidacy for president, told workers yesterday that he "will not run away" if Poland wants him for the office.

The leader of the Solidarity trade union spoke to a hall packed with about 300 workers at the Zamech machine factory in Elblag, a northern city about 70 kilometres (42 miles) from Walesa's headquarters in Gdansk.

He again denied that he is running for the presidency but seemed very much like a would-be candidate warming up for a campaign.

The next presidential election is not due until 1995, but it is possible that the vote could be moved up as part of a planned redrafting of the Polish constitution.

Meanwhile, Walesa is preparing to stand for re-election as union chairman at Solidarity's national congress starting on April 19. A longtime Walesa critic in the union, Jan Rulewski, told state television yesterday he sees no chance for Walesa to lose.

At the Elblag meeting, Walesa criticised incumbent President Wojciech Jaruzelski and ended with a straw poll of the crowd. Only three people raised their hands to oppose him.

"I would like you to think about what the president should be like so we could start creating him in advance," Walesa told the people.

Asked by one spectator about the presidency, Walesa replied: "I don't want to be president. I am a free man, and the president in every country is so busy... that does not exclude the fact that if I have to, I will not refrain. If Poland, if you, say that it must be so, I will not run away."

Of his public statements about the presidency, Walesa said: "I am only provoking a discussion." "I am not eager to become president, but watching the slow pace of reforms I wanted to provoke a discussion, to say I am not satisfied with the course of events. I am not running for this seat."

Lawmakers swept away the nation's censorship rules Wednesday, which Poland's former communist leaders had used to try to silence their critics.

In a vote of 266-0, with 8 abstentions, the deputies lifted the four-decade-old law. The decision was mostly symbolic, since censorship has been almost non-existent since the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki took power last fall.

A week ago I was guaranteed a place. Suddenly they changed their minds," Seddik told Reuters.

Conservatives stop feuding

Mitsotakis sworn in

Cabinet

ATHENS, April 13, (Agencies): Greek Conservatives, in office for the first time since 1981, have stopped feuding and closed ranks to protect a precarious one-seat majority in Parliament.

Since Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis was sworn in on Wednesday, factions of his New Democracy Party have moved with surprising speed to paper over their differences and display solidarity.

His grasp on power rests on 150 seats he won in the 300-seat Parliament in Sunday elections, and a deal with a sole centrist deputy, providing a one-seat absolute majority.

Mitsotakis, 71, has an ambitious plan to reverse eight years of Socialist rule.

The Socialists, with 123 seats, have vowed to fight every step of the way to protect the extensive welfare state they built up while in office from 1981 until June 1989.

"The government which emerged from these elections is based on a single vote. It won't last, and will provide no long-term programme," Socialist leader and former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said.

Papandreu will look for support from 19 communist deputies and four far-left independents.

The latest Conservative to forget past rivalries and throw his support behind Mitsotakis was Constantine Karamanlis, Greece's most popular politician according to opinion polls.

Karamanlis, who in 1974 oversaw the restoration of democracy after seven years of military dictatorship, agreed on Wednesday night to come out of retirement and serve as Greek President.

For months Karamanlis, 83, the former prime minister and president, sat on the sidelines, occasionally exercising his sharp wit to denounce the confused political scene as "resembling a vast madhouse."

With the absolute majority in hand, Karamanlis backed Mitsotakis, and in so doing took some revenge on Papandreu, who forced him from the presidential palace in 1985.

The President, elected to a five-year term by Parliament, holds a ceremonial post but Karamanlis's presence will help to ensure many members of the New Democracy Party are kept in line and the one-seat majority safeguarded as long as possible.

Mitsotakis yesterday received US Ambassador Michael Sotirios, in his first formal meeting with a foreign diplomat since taking office a day earlier.

ATHENS, April 13, (Reuters): Greece's Conservative cabinet, sworn in on Wednesday, is as follows. All are members of the new Democracy Party: Prime Minister, Constantine Mitsotakis; Deputy Prime Minister, Athanasios Karamanlis; and Tzannis Tzannetakis, Minister in the prime minister's office, Militades Evert; National Defence, Ioannis Varvitsiotis; Foreign Affairs, Antonis Samaras; Interior, Sotiris Kouvelas; National Economy, George Souflias; Finance, Ioannis Palaiokostas; Agriculture, Mihailis Papakonstantinou; Labour, Aristides Katsarakis; Health, Welfare and Social Security, Marietta Yannakou; Justice, Athanasios Kanellopoulos; Education and Religious Affairs, Vassilis Kondoyannopoulos; Culture, Tzannis Tzannetakis; Public Order, Ioannis Vassiliadis; Macedonia and Thrace, George Tzitzicostas; Aegean, George Mitsalidis; Environment, Town Planning, and public works, Stefanos Manos; Industry, Energy and Technology, Stavros Dimas; Commerce, Athanasios Xarhas; Transport and Communications, Nicolaos Gelesthakis; Merchant marine, Constantine Mitsotakis; Tourism, George Souflias; and Without portfolio, Mikis Theodorakis.

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'Comic-author' barred
Euro-Arab book fair

PARIS, April 13, (Reuters): The author of a comic-strip of the Holy Quran condemned in Muslim countries as a blasphemous, said yesterday. He had been barred from the first Euro-Arab book fair to be held in the West.

Youssef Seddik, Tunisian-born author of three cartoon books narrating the Muslim holy book, said authorities at Paris's Institute of the Arab World had told him he could no longer participate in the four-day event in the French capital next month.

"A week ago I was guaranteed a place. Suddenly they changed their minds," Seddik told Reuters.

Seddik's books, which he says he wrote to make the Holy Quran more accessible to children, have drawn harsh condemnation across the Muslim world. He has started legal action against some of his critics.

The strictest interpretation of Islam forbids all pictorial representation of the Holy Quran which Muslims believe to be the word of God.

The institute, opened by President Francois Mitterrand three years ago and built to strengthen ties between France and Arab countries, has refused to stock the comic-strip in its bookshop since it went on sale last year.

9 killed in South Africa violence

JOHANNESBURG, April 13, (Agencies): At least nine people were killed in renewed clashes between rival black factions, including five slain when gunmen riddled a bus with bullets, police said Thursday.

The new violence came as African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela slammed the pro-apartheid conservative party, claiming the white opposition group was stirring racist fears to try and wreck peace talks. Mandela arrives in London on Sunday.

The unidentified gunmen attacked the bus near Belemmaritzburg in Natal province late Wednesday, killing five of the occupants and seriously wounding three others, police said. Black factional fighting in the region has claimed hundreds of lives.

In another part of Natal, a mob killed a woman by placing a blazing fire around her neck in a ritual "necklace" killing near Port Shepstone, police said. Few details were provided on the other killings.

Fire

Police also reported dispersing black protesters in several areas who set fire to houses, stoned vehicles and clashed with police patrols.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, who heads the police, told parliament in Cape Town Thursday he was confident of maintaining control despite a rising tide of violence.

Vlok said the police could face the challenges facing South Africa during the coming decade as the country faces major changes.

Mandela lashed out Wednesday night at the Conservative Party, charging it was racist and incapable of accepting progress. In an unusually harsh attack, he said the CP was attempting to break up efforts by the government and the ANC to negotiate an end to white-minority rule.

"Mandela said 'racist slurs' being spread by the CP were a threat to hopes of negotiating a peaceful settlement in South Africa. The CP contends whites and blacks cannot live together and is calling for a white homeland."

Meet

Mandela and other ANC leaders are to meet May 2 with President F.W. de Klerk to try and clear the way for full-scale negotiations on ending white minority rule and sharing political power with blacks.

De Klerk legalized the ANC and other black opposition groups and released Mandela in February to clear the way for power-sharing talks.

Plan

Meanwhile, anti-apartheid church leaders presented President F.W. de Klerk with a plan to tackle a bitter war between rival black groups in South Africa's Natal province.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu requested Wednesday's meeting with De Klerk after touring the strife-torn townships of the province, transformed into battlefields by a conflict which has killed more than 400 people in the past two months.

"We took the opportunity of presenting the State President with a memorandum on the situation in Natal as we understand it," Natal Anglican Bishop Michael Nuttall said after the two-hour meeting.

The church delegation consisted of 11 members of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which groups all the country's 22 Christian churches except the pro-government white Dutch Reformed Church.

Visit

The SACC last week held talks with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelez, whose supporters are fighting those of the United Democratic Front, affiliated to the African National Congress (ANC), as well as ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

President De Klerk, leading his country out of diplomatic quarantine, will visit the United States in June, sources close to the government said on Thursday.

Stray cloth caused \$250m Ariane rocket explosion

WASHINGTON, April 13, (UPI): A stray piece of cloth — perhaps left behind accidentally by a technician — apparently caused the \$250 million explosion of a rocket in February that destroyed two Japanese communications satellites, officials from Ariane-space said yesterday.

Arianespace announced Monday that an inquiry into the Feb 22 accident found it was caused by a blocked water pipe in a rocket engine. In a statement yesterday, the company acknowledged the pipe was blocked by

a piece of cloth.

The announcement came after the water valve and flexible tubing from the rocket's engine were sent from French Guiana where the launch occurred to the Saclay jet propulsion test centre near Paris for testing, the statement said.

"This investigation confirms the board of inquiry's original hypothesis that the D engine's water supply line was blocked by a foreign body. In fact, it was a piece of cloth that obstructed the main water valve," the

statement said.

"The most likely cause for the presence of this textile material is tied to non-standard servicing on this tubing, as initially announced by the board of inquiry," it said.

Spokeswoman Michelle Lyle said in an interview that the cloth may have been inadvertently left behind while technicians were working on the pipe in the rocket.

"It's very likely it was a human error," she said. "They had to do some work on the pipe."

Gorby tells US not to preach

Soviet party seems ready to split

MOSCOW, April 13, (Reuters) Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told the United States yesterday not to preach to the Kremlin on policy towards rebel Lithuania. He declared that Moscow was showing patience and restraint over the Baltic republic's bid to secede from the Soviet Union.

He told a delegation of seven US senators the Lithuanians were acting provocatively, leaving less and less room for a political approach, the official news agency Tass said.

Delegation leader George Mitchell told a news conference the senators had reiterated to Gorbachev that any recourse to force in Lithuania would seriously harm US-Soviet relations.

Tass reported: "You don't need to teach us, Gorbachev said, that political methods are better. But not everything depends on us. And senators, like Americans in general, must understand this. And avoid sermons."



Pulitzer winner

This photograph by David C. Turnley, of a Romanian venting grief at the regime of Nicolae Ceausescu two days after his overthrow, was published Dec 29, 1989 in the Detroit Free Press. Together with other photos of political uprisings it won Turnley the 1990 Pulitzer for Feature Photography in New York on April 12 (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets admit Wartime massacre

LONDON, April 13, (Reuters) The Soviet secret police carried out the Katyn killings, one of the most notorious massacres of World War Two, Moscow admitted for the first time yesterday.

Moscow radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and quoting the official news agency Tass, said the NKVD, predecessor of the KGB secret police, was responsible for the deaths of 15,000 Polish officers and men at Katyn in the western Soviet Union in 1940.

"The Soviet side expresses deep regret over the tragedy, and assesses it as one of the worst Stalinist crimes," Moscow radio said.

Moscow had hitherto always insisted that the German Nazis carried out the killings. But the radio said recently discovered evidence pointed to NKVD responsibility.

The official admission of guilt coincided with a three-day official visit to the Soviet Union by Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski, which the Communist Party daily Pravda said would "promote the development and consolidation of friendly relations between the USSR and Poland."

Although the radio report, also carried by Soviet television, quoted Tass, no mention of Katyn was seen on the agency's service received in London.

The radio report, in Moscow's English-language service, said: "The Soviet news agency Tass has published an official statement on the circumstances of the death of 15,000 Polish soldiers and officers who had been interned in several NKVD camps in September of 1939 in the Soviet Union."

E. Germany finally turns democratic

Living up to its name

EAST BERLIN, April 13, (Reuters) The German Democratic Republic — East Germany — is finally living up to its name, having installed a democratically-elected government after four decades of communism.

The irony is that the main task of Christian Democratic Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's cabinet — Eastern Europe's first freely-chosen administration — will be to negotiate its own extinction in talks on unification with West Germany.

The government took office yesterday and its Parliament, elected in the country's first unfettered elections a month ago, said East Germany bore joint responsibility for the Nazi slaughter of six million Jews.

The 400-member Volkskammer, whose job in the old days was to rubber-stamp communist decisions, apologised to Israel and Jews for their suffering during the Nazi holocaust in World War Two.

"East Germany's first freely-elected Parliament admits joint responsibility on behalf of the people for the humiliation,

expulsion and murder of Jewish women, men and children," it said.

It was the first such public admission of guilt made by East Germany, whose former communist bosses said the country had nothing to do with Adolf Hitler's atrocities because it rose as an anti-fascist state from the ruins of the third Reich in 1949.

"We feel sad and ashamed ... we ask the Jews of the world to forgive us," said the Volkskammer statement, read by speaker and acting head of state Sabine Bergmann-Pohl on television.

The declaration also apologised to Prague for East Berlin's participation in the 1968 Moscow-led crushing of Czechoslovak reforms, told Poland its borders were safe and said Moscow had made the East German revolution possible.

President George Bush on Wednesday rejected a suggestion from a Soviet official that a united Germany could temporarily remain a member of both Nato and the Warsaw Pact and insisted Germany must side with Nato.

China continues blackout on unrest

Mongolia adopts new party constitution, platform

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, April 13, (AP) The world's second-oldest ruling Communist Party dropped the word "communism" from its constitution yesterday and set a new goal of building "democratic humane socialism."

An extraordinary congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party adopted a new party constitution and platform to reflect its recent acceptance of democratic reforms and opposition parties.

A proposal to change the party's name, dropping the word "revolutionary," was defeated.

The party, which is trying to change its image to keep power in free elections, appeared to be suffering from an identity crisis.

"Our party remains Marxist-Leninist," said party ideology chief Tshilgaan. But he said that "Marxism-Leninism or any other theories are not dogmas," and that the party no longer used the word "communism."

"We now have realised that communism is a thing far away from us," he said. "We are building a humane, democratic socialism."

Asked if the party should be called communist or socialist, he said, "let's leave it to you."

Foreign travellers arriving in Beijing on Wednesday reported that China had sent troops to put down rioting by ethnic Muslims in the southern part of remote Xinjiang province.

Two separate groups of travellers who arrived in Beijing from Urumqi, the provincial capital, said they heard from local Muslim Uyghurs that 50 to 60 Muslims had been killed in and around the western city of Kashgar by Chinese troops, but the reports were second hand and could not be confirmed.

German tourists who attempted to buy airplane tickets to Kashgar from the provincial capital of Urumqi said they were told no foreigners were permitted to travel to the south, near the Soviet and Pakistan borders.

The Urumqi office has referred journalists to the Foreign Ministry, but spokeswoman Li said she could not say why travel to Urumqi and Kashgar, both cities normally open to foreigners, has been stopped.

Foreign travellers have been prevented from travelling from Urumqi to Kashgar since the weekend and the Urumqi foreign affairs office has told foreign journalists they may not come to Xinjiang. The Pakistan government was informed on Monday that the Khunjerab Pass, the 4,000-metre (13,120-foot) high road linking Pakistan with Kashgar, will not open as planned at the end of this month because of

people, a Muslim group with ethnic ties in the Soviet Union.

Foreign travellers in Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang, quoted local people as saying that two Chinese officials sent in to resolve the dispute were murdered. Troops then dispatched to the city killed 50 people in putting down the rioting, according to the unconfirmed reports.

Kashgar is an ancient Silk Road oasis city of 100,000 about 240 kilometres (150 miles) from the Soviet border and 1,100 kilometres (700 miles) west of Urumqi.

Other factors considered in issuing the amnesty included a decision that the woman had been brainwashed in North Korea's regimented society and was simply used as "a tool to commit the crime," the statement said.

"In this case, she was used as a stooge. Therefore, the real criminals would be Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il," it said.

The woman was sentenced to death by a Seoul district court last summer after she publicly confessed to having placed the bombs aboard the Korean air flight. The sentence was upheld by the supreme court last month.

She had been in the custody of intelligence authorities since her conviction. Following her pardon, she will continue to receive protection against possible assassination attempts by North Korea, officials said.

Seoul blames North Korea

KAL bomber pardoned

SEOUL, April 13, (AP) The government yesterday pardoned a North Korean agent who confessed to bombing a South Korean airliner, saying North Korean President Kim Il Sung and his son, Kim Jong Il were the real criminals.

"The government has decided to issue a special amnesty for Kim Hyun-Hui and exempt her from the death sentence," a government statement said.

Kim was convicted in the downing of an airliner near Burma in 1987 that killed 115 people aboard.

The amnesty, approved by President Roh Tae-woo, followed a decision by the cabinet to pardon her.

"The agent has repented and is the only witness of the incident and can crush North Korea's black propaganda (charges) that our probe of the incident and trial have been fabricated," the statement said.

Bermuda summit to boost Maggie

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 13, (Reuters) President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher meet amid the palm trees of picturesque Bermuda today for talks that will centre on Europe and give the British leader a chance to boost her standing back home.

The scheduled five hours of discussion will be a welcome break for Thatcher from domestic economic and political woes and put her in front of the television cameras talking about world affairs rather than anti-government protests.

The two leaders will hold a joint news conference after their meeting, Thatcher's first overseas trip this year.

Officials travelling with Thatcher are anxious to quell persistent reports that Anglo-US relations have not been the same since Bush took over the Oval Office from Ronald Reagan 16 months ago and that she has been left behind by the momentous changes in Eastern Europe.

They point out this is the sixth of a series of meetings between British and American leaders in this Atlantic sector, favoured by millions and honeymoon couples, which date back to 1953 and include such distinguished names as Winston Churchill, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harold Macmillan and John F. Kennedy.

Thatcher flew in from London yesterday determined to forget opinion polls which rate her Britain's most unpopular prime minister in 50 years largely because of a new local "poll" tax on all adults. She also wants to have a say in Western Europe's response to the democracy drive on its eastern borders.

British sources said a major topic on the agenda would be the future of the 16-nation Western defence alliance Nato, with Thatcher apparently recalcitrant to dropping her previous insistence on the modernisation of lance short-range nuclear missiles based in West Germany.

This has long been resisted by the West German government and public opinion, principally as the ground-launched weapons would only reach the eastern half of a unified Germany.

But the sources said Thatcher would also seek Bush's support for her view that British and US forces must continue to be based in Germany after unification, and nuclear-armed aircraft must stay in West Germany and Britain for the foreseeable future.

Thatcher began Good Friday, one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar, with a visit to church.



King Michael shows reporters his passport with the cancelled visa at Zurich airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bucharest cancels ex-king's visit visa

Swissair bars to board

GENEVA, April 13, (AP) Exiled King Michael of Romania returned to his Swiss residence yesterday after the Bucharest government cancelled his visa and forced an indefinite postponement of his first visit to his native country since 1948.

He had been booked on a direct Swissair flight from Zurich to Bucharest at noon Thursday (1000 GMT) but the airline management decided after a hastily called meeting that he would not be allowed to board.

"It was to be a strictly private visit," Michael, 68, told reporters at Zurich airport. "I don't understand the decision to rescind the visas. I don't know what concerns there could have been."

He held up his British passport to show that it had been stamped with a Romanian visa and said he was still planning to visit "as soon as possible."

Romania's provisional government acted after appealing in vain Wednesday to Michael to postpone his visit until after the May 20 elections to prevent possible disturbances.

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman, in an interview yesterday with France's state-run Antenne 2 television channel, called the king's visit a political and not a private trip. It was opposed "by practically all political factions and by public opinion," Roman said.

In Bucharest, several hundred Romanians who had gathered to welcome the ex-king broke into chants of "shame, shame," and "down with the communists" when they heard he was not coming.

They later continued their protest outside the provisional government's headquarters in central Bucharest.

The provisional government asserted that it feared for the king's safety a month before the first free elections in decades, scheduled for May 20.

China warns minorities

Fear of ethnic unrest

BEIJING, April 13, (AP) Chinese leaders are sounding warnings about religious and ethnic conflict, apparently fearing the nationalist turmoil in neighbouring Central Asia could spread to Mongolia, Manchuria, Muslims and Tibetans in China.

Ethnic violence and religious fundamentalism in Soviet Asia and the democratic impulses of Mongolia could spread, posing a direct threat to Beijing's long-nurtured concept of unity and harmony among the Han Chinese and the nation's 55 minorities.

Marxist law has been in effect in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa for more than a year, following recurrent anti-Chinese riots. Last week, Chinese troops were reportedly dispatched to three cities near the Soviet border to put down unrest among Muslim ethnic groups.

Premier Li Peng, in a speech to officials in charge of minority affairs in February, warned of "a tiny number of separatists (who) under the mantle of nationalism and religion oppose socialism and sabotage the unity of all Chinese nationalities."

China, he said, "should wipe out all separatist activities while they are still in the embryonic stage."

He called for a mass campaign to study Marxist theories on minorities, which contend that ethnic differences will disappear as workers everywhere unite.

China's minorities problem pales before that of the Soviet Union, where nearly 50 per cent of the population is non-Russian. The 86 million members of non-Han ethnic groups make up less than eight per cent of China's 1.1 billion people, and many have long been assimilated into Chinese culture.

But they inhabit lands comprising 60 per cent of China's territory, stretching from the Himalayas of the southwest to the Silk Road deserts of the west and the endless steppes of the north.

Tibet has been the most volatile area. Many Tibetans stubbornly resist China's claims to sovereignty and dozens have died in anti-Chinese riots in Lhasa since late 1987.

Foreign offices of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said 4,000 Tibetans demonstrated in Lhasa last month to mark the first anniversary of martial law, but China denied the report. Beijing refused to allow foreign journalists and tourists into Tibet at the time of the anniversary, and operators didn't put phone calls through.

The Buddhist Tibetans deeply resent China's past policies of religious and cultural persecution. Their feelings are shared by the Uyghurs and other Muslim groups who make up more than half the 14 million people of and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to the north.

Xinjiang borders on and shares cultural ties with the restless peoples of Soviet Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tadzhikistan. In addition to 7.3 million Huis and six million Uyghurs, scatterings of Kazaks, Kirghiz, Tatars, Russians and Tajiks are also found in Xinjiang and other Chinese border provinces.

Asian diplomats in Beijing said a dispute over a mosque in Xinjiang's remote western desert town of Kashgar sparked last week's unrest. They said the rioters, up to 50 of whom reportedly were killed, were from the Kirghiz ethnic group.

The disturbances were the worst since last May, when some 150 Muslims upset over a Chinese-language book they said was blasphemous, were arrested for attacking Communist Party headquarters in the provincial capital of Urumqi.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Li Jinhua yesterday denied any knowledge of the reported clashes in Kashgar. Chinese officials have sought to keep news of the unrest from spreading by barring all foreigners from entering the area and refusing to answer queries from foreign journalists and diplomats.

But Chinese officials have frequently warned of potential trouble in the area.

The region's Communist Party chief, Song Hanjiang, after a tour of Kashgar and other areas of southern Xinjiang in February, called for strengthened control over religious activities. He said the government must not allow religion to be used to promote separatism.

Xinjiang's government chief, Tomur Dawamat, also warned last month of "social scum" aided by foreign reactionaries who sought to "oppose Xinjiang remaining in the big family of the motherland." But he said they represented less than one per cent of the population.

China has said little about democratic pressures in Mongolia that have forced the Communist Party leadership to resign. But according to one Soviet diplomat, the Chinese feel there is a real danger the Mongol reform movement will spill over into China's inner Mongolia.

Requests by foreign journalists to travel to inner Mongolia have been rejected in recent weeks.

Some 3.5 million Mongols live in inner Mongolia — there are two million across the border in Mongolia. China's Mongols, who conquered the country under Genghis Khan in the 13th century, are outnumbered in inner Mongolia by 18 million Hans, and lack the cultural and religious unity of the Tibetans and Muslims.

Prominent dissident Chai to meet with press in Paris despite Chinese protest

PARIS, April 13, (AP) Chai Ling, a prominent student leader of China's crushed pro-democracy movement, will meet the press next week despite protests from Chinese authorities, an organisation of exiled dissidents said yesterday.

Chai, 24, and her husband, Feng Congde, escaped two weeks ago from China, where they had been in hiding for nine months. Both were on the wanted list of 21 students who led demonstrations last spring for greater political freedom.

Chai, who has made no public appearances in France, will give a news conference Wednesday at the Arche de La Defense, an ultramodern skyscraper outside Paris, the

Federation for Democracy in China said in a statement.

The French Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the couple is seeking political asylum, saying their request is under consideration.

The Chinese embassy this week protested France's willingness to allow Chai into the country. China has demanded that Chinese dissidents in France be barred from engaging in activities against its communist leadership.

The Foreign Ministry said Chai, like other dissidents, living in France, was free to engage in any activities that did not threaten public order or involve terrorism.

Another fugitive student leader Wang Chaohua of the

crushed pro-democracy movement has escaped from China through a secret channel that is still operating 10 months after Beijing launched a brutal crackdown on dissent, according to a reliable source.

"I want everybody to know that the channel is still alive, there's still hope," said the source.

President George Bush on Wednesday issued the executive order he promised last November to protect Chinese students from deportation.

Bush's order directs the attorney general to defer until Jan. 1, 1994, any deportation proceedings against Chinese nationals who were in the United States on or after June 5, 1989, and whose visas expire.

The highest-level official talks between China and Japan since China's suppression of the democracy movement last spring concluded yesterday with agreement on the importance of strong bilateral relations.

Chinese security forces have stepped up surveillance and arrests of suspected members of a nascent underground democracy movement ahead of key dates heavy with symbolism for student radicals.

Sunday is the first anniversary of the death of reformist former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang which ignited last year's student-led democracy movement — bloodily crushed two months later by the People's Liberation Army.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Monthly state medical costs KD2.2 million

35,000 items in store

By Hussain Salamah

THE director of Medical Stores Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Mohammed Al Nuqhaihan has been quoted as saying that his department is responding to the requirements of 270 medical centres and hospitals in the country. Among these are 120 permanent hospitals, polyclinics and clinics and 150 irregular medical centres and hospitals including the hospital of the Ministry of Defence and the emergency centres which might be set up during specific occasions such as the organising of sporting tournaments and conferences.

He added that apart from the above the department also sends relief medical supplies donated by the State of Kuwait to distressed areas and countries in need.

He added that his department purchases the required medical supplies and medicines either from the local market or abroad.

Replying to a question on GCC unified medicine procurement, the official said this procedure came into force 13 years ago following the setting up of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council. He said that member states had realised significant benefits through the application of unified procedures.

He pointed out that in the beginning all unified procurements were subject to the control of Kuwait based Medicine Control Laboratory as it was the sole laboratory in the region capable of undertaking such a task. There is however an identical laboratory in Saudi

Arabia to test Saudi medicine procurements in addition to another one set up in Iraq.

Nuqhaihan added that medicine procurement is subject to several rules including the registration of purchased medicine at the Medicine Control Department. Medicine can be registered only after it is used in the country of origin for at least five years.

Contracts
He disclosed that the medicines purchase contract up to KD75,000 should be subject to the approval of Legislation and Fatwa Department and up to KD100,000 should be subject to the approval of Legislation and Fatwa Department as well as the approval of the audit bureau.

Replying to a question, the official said that the annual allocated budget for the procuring of medical supplies and medicines is KD25.5 million with KD3.5 million for the purchasing of medical supplies. For the next fiscal year, the department has suggested allocating a budget of KD29 million, but the Ministry of Finance has agreed to allocate a budget of KD23 million instead.

This would mean that the pertinent budget will be reduced despite the expansion in the setting up of medical centres. However the official praised the co-operation prevailing between the department and the Ministry of Finance, clarifying that the ministry had in 1987 granted a supplementary budget to the department estimated at KD4 million and in 1988 another supplementary budget was allocated for the

department at KD6 million.

Tests
Meanwhile, the official disclosed that his department was purchasing about 120 kinds of medicine from Kuwait Pharmaceutical Industries Company (KPIC). According to a Cabinet decision in this connection, the department is empowered directly from the company. He added that all the medicines purchased from KPIC were subject to necessary laboratory tests like any other imported medicine.

Al Seyassah learnt that the value of medical supplies prepared by Medical Stores Department to be sent to Lebanon amounts to KD150,000.

On the other hand, controller of medicines at the department Dr Abdullah Diab said that the department was dispensing about five million tablets of Panadol per month.

He added that arterial solutions were at the top of the ministry hospitals consumption, clarifying that these hospitals were consuming about one million flasks of such a solution per annum.

He disclosed that patient suffering from kidney failure cost the state about KD25,000 per annum, each heart surgery cost about KD7,000 including medicine and other medical supplies.

He added that the department's budget is fixed at KD22 million, while the monthly medicine dispensation average could be estimated at KD2.2 million per month.

Paaet students bemoan deteriorating facilities

A NUMBER of students at the Electricity and Water Training Centre of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) voiced their complaints against the deteriorating conditions of the building, shortage in laboratory equipments, non-payments of their monthly allowances for several months.

Adel Mansour, a second year student said the centres facilities are unsuited to education and most classrooms look like old chalets. Additionally he said that meals offered by the cafeteria are not adequate and the size of the cafeteria cannot accommodate all the students. He also said that students have not received their allowances for the past six months.

Mahari Mohammed, another student said that one of the main problems suffered by students is an utter lack of guidance towards any future speciality and said he has never been guided as to what profession he should take in his future.

Meanwhile, Jassem Hamad Abdul Raheem, director of the Electricity and Water Centre said that the building is old and that it was previously used by the Communication Centre, but added that the building is regularly maintained and added that the centre will soon move to a new building in Daiya. He disclosed that the new building in Daiya will be on a temporary basis as the authority intends to establish a technological complex in Shuwaik.

The official stressed that meals supplied to students by the cafeteria are adequate and sold at symbolic prices. The authority is keen to provide students with the best in food.

Speaking on non-payment of allowances, Raheem said that a decision by the management of the authority had stipulated that allowances would not be paid until a student has passed his first semester.

KAC staff arrested for gold smuggling

THE security authorities at the International Airport in Bombay have arrested an assistant pilot of a regular KAC flight on the charge of smuggling eight kilograms of gold bullion from Kuwait into India.

A local daily reported that the Indian airport authorities were apparently on the alert for the attempted smuggling operation last Friday, in response to a tip-off which led to a thorough search of the suspect's personal luggage. The crew member was searched contrary to the agreed conventions whereby cabin crew and flying technicians are not so strictly searched.

Contacts are still ongoing between Kuwait and India for more details on the incident.

Special committee to keep prices in check

Blind rush by consumers blamed

THE controller of administrative development and co-operative guidance at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, Fadel Hilal Al Motawa has said that the ministry is planning to set up a higher co-ordination committee in co-operation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer

Societies to look into applications for endorsing proposed increases in the prices of certain consumer commodities.

He said that lack of awareness among some consumers stood as direct cause for the price rise of certain commodities whether during Ramadan or otherwise, through over-buying.

He said that price rises usually happened as a result of currency fluctuations in the supplier country and emphasised that the union endorse no price increase without adequate justification.

Shopping during Ramadan is better done in the post-iftar period, Motawa said as people who shop before iftar usually

buy more stuff than they actually need under the effect of their fasting. He blamed the blind rush by consumers to stuff houses with all sorts of commodities before and during Ramadan (as if they were taking precautions against an anticipated famine) as one of the causes for the price rise of certain commodities.



Service medals awarded

The director general of General Administration of Police Academy Brigadier Khaled Al Minayes gave service medals to a number of officers at the administration which were granted to them by HH the Amir. The assistant director general Col Ali Yacoub Abdulla also gave away medals to a number of non-commissioned officers at the administration.

Profiteering during Ramadan highly immoral, says Sudan

Co-op movement successful

By Salem Al Wawan

PRICE increases, during the holy month of Ramadan, specially of foodstuffs, are considered to be immoral and contradicts with the tolerant instructions of Islam, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications for Transport Affairs, Saqer Al Sudan said.

The official said that there is no valid reason for merchants to increase prices as no price increase have taken place in exporting countries. He appropriated a part of the blame to the laxity of censorship by the Consumers Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and called on the officials to enhance their supervision.

Values

Commenting on loans granted by the Saving and Credit Bank for citizens to build or buy their private houses, he said that the government affords every consideration to these needs and added that marriage loans have been increased from KD2,000 to KD3,000 recently. He commented that the amount of KD 54,000 loan extended by the bank is adequate to build houses and pointed out that in the past this loans used to be KD 18,000.

Meanwhile, the head of the Israeli Boycott Office in Kuwait, Ahmas Al Sudan said that Kuwait diwanis are a significant heritage of Kuwait which affords the opportunity for citizens to meet and discuss their own affairs. He added that television is the main local media in the country and has no competition, but pointed out that KTV should show programmes that are good and with values acceptable to the Kuwaiti society.

Plans

Meanwhile, the head of the Co-operative Societies Union, Saad Abbas Al Swari, has said the co-operative movement has been successfully instrumental in providing the people with their essential and other requirements, all at reasonable prices.

In an effort to explain its role in building the Kuwaiti economy Swari said that the co-operative movements is not only aimed at providing commodities at fair prices, but also is a form of social service.

On the union's role, he said that the union represents all members locally and abroad and works towards improving its performance at all societies and to ensure that prices are not increased without justification.

The union prepares studies linked to its activities and provides expertise to all societies. The union in making purchases, contracts in bulk to serve the needs of 40 co-operatives which keep prices at a local level. However, he said that the union seeks to provide residents and citizens with nationally produced commodities.

On the union's future plans, he said that it is now preparing for the reconstruction of the currently implemented systems and policies and special committee are formed for the purpose with the co-operation of Kuwait University and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Initially, the union will utilise computers at its building and these will be linked to societies and is looking forward to the establishment of a statistics section. Another new building is planned for the union to cover the requirements and to provide more work area.

The union is seriously studying the implementation of a public garden, handicapped centres and clubs, women and youth rehabilitation centres, schools and medals clinics.

According to statistics in 1989, there are a total of 2,463 super markets and total sales amounted to KD 229.5 million.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION: WINNERS AND LOSERS

Part Ten: Halifax

IF you're not particularly interested in being surrounded by high-rise giants and living in the fast lane, then perhaps you might like a medium-paced, medium-sized city. Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, might just be what you're looking for.

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Consequently, water and especially shipping play a big part in the economics of Halifax. Even so, there is a wide diversification of business, industry and finance. It is serviced also by its highest employer, the community, business and personal services sector. It also has, in fact, the fourth highest number of Federal employees working in the metropolitan center.

About 60 per cent of the wholesale and 36.1 per cent of the retail trade for the province is conducted here, with most banks, finance companies and insurance companies having their regional headquarters here. But for the export-import interests of the entrepreneur, Halifax boasts one of the finest natural harbours in the world and includes 32 deepwater berths, 15 transit sheds, a five million bushel grain elevator, repair, touring and bunkering services.

There is one great attraction of Halifax for the immigrating family. Not only are all the modern services, including the health and education services, available on a scale you would expect from a modern city but there is also a great economic advantage for someone starting in a new land: the cost of living is still fairly reasonable compared to say Toronto or Montreal. The real estate market has remained fairly stable and apartment vacancy rates are encouraging.

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By John Garufi and Benito Rotella

Its harbour is ice-free year round and is probably Canada's most important port for maritime activities. The Bedford Institute, for instance, is the world's third largest oceanographic centre. Ever since Cunard started running his steamship from Halifax, insurance, banking and international trade have flourished.

Nova Scotia, or New Scotland, is also a favourite haunt for the holiday maker. In fact, tourism is a principal source of its income. Why not? You have deep-sea fishing, hunting, canoeing, skiing and ocean cruising. It didn't get its nickname of Canada's "ocean playground" for nothing. O.K., so it might not be the richest and most populous of the provinces but if you want to live near the coast, in Nova Scotia you are never more than 35 kilometres from it.

But don't imagine a backwater of culture. In fact, Halifax has some of Atlantic Canada's greatest institutes of education, medicine and culture, first common law courts and the first province to ensure freedom of the press.

There is another advantage that Halifax has over other cities in Canada: its climate is temperate. So it's not the favourite destination for the winter vacationer. Spring and summer are at their Canadian best here and both nature and the communities break out with their own festivals of colour and abundance.

Although English is the language used in Halifax, many Nova Scotians use the traditional Gaelic greeting of "Ciad mile failte!" (a hundred thousand welcomes). We can't teach you Gaelic, which you won't need anyway, but we could be the first of your hundred thousand welcomes. For more information on life in Halifax, contact 5332731.

You can meet Mr John Garufi during 17-30 April 1990 at Kuwait Int'l Hotel. Tel. 2530000.

Municipality studying new construction system

By Jamal Ameen

CHAIRMAN of the technical committee at the Municipal Affairs Committee, Engineer Ahmad Awadh Jubair has said that officials are currently studying a construction system to be implemented on the level of the whole country and for all buildings. The plan includes investment residential buildings with commercial fronts. He added that the committee has studied private construction systems in industrial areas and other buildings like schools and hospitals.

He indicated that the Municipal Affairs Committee previously studied the system and gave an opinion on it and then sent their recommendations to several concerned government authorities for final representation.

With respect to the feasibility of the currently implemented system and the gaps, he said that the committee always seeks to find easy and practical methods for construction. He indicated that any flexible

system would always require developing and modification due to the changes of citizens requirements. He stated that the new system will concentrate more aesthetics to go along with citizens interests.

Regarding private housing, he stated that the new system will aim at increasing population density in old areas due to two essential factors namely, the development in increasing the permitted limit of construction and shortage in land area.

He stated that the new system will give plot owners more freedom to build more than one house on each plot.

On the implementation of the chalets project on Bubiyan Island, he said that there are no technical problems what so ever in the implementation of the project. He pointed out that Bubiyan Island will consist of some touristic and entertainment projects.

He expected that the next stage will witness a general response towards real estate and construction more than the past four years. He added that it is important to find methods attract citizens to living in the capital which he said was an important measure.

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Stray dog menace in Abbasiya: residents

COMPLAINTS keep accumulating from Abbasiya residents about stray dogs attacking sheep and goats, a local daily said. One citizen said that a herd of stray dogs has attacked and devoured five sheep and three goats, and that quite a few such cases have been reported to the authorities but no action had been taken.

He said that the problem is very serious as children fear to go out at night because of the killer dogs. The relevant Interior Ministry authorities have been urgently requested to put an end to this nightmare.

Ralids

Another citizen said that his stable has been raided by a herd of rabid dogs on several occasions and that a good number of his sheep and goats were killed.

He added that his little son was once bitten by a killer dog but he was rescued at the last moment. He said this problem constitutes an obnoxious fear for residents in the area.

A third citizen said that he has lost 15 sheep in several attacks by killer dogs and that if it were not for the intervention of passers-by on one occasion, his son would have been easy meat for these dogs.

Israel will not attack Iraq: Hamad

Arab position better

Following is the full text of the interview with Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force.

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief
Arab Times

Q. Your Highness ... do you think that Israel is serious in its aggressive threats to Iraq?

A. First, we must not forget an important historical fact that since Israel began to exercise heavy pressure on world diplomacies to emphasise its role on the international level, it is important for Israel to feel in control over the Middle East area and related policies, to continually reinforce its feeling of power. Therefore the Arab-Israeli conflict has been responsible for the creation of the suitable psychological atmosphere for Israel to wage this cold war ... which turns hot at times.

Israel will not launch any attack on Iraq as the calculations now have changed. The Arabs are no longer easy to divide by Israel and its two supporting powers. It will not attack Iraq and there is no doubt about that, as geographically, Iraqi lands occupy vast area and Israel will not be able to tell which part to attack and will not even be able to occupy any of the Iraqi lands since Iraq is not located close to Israel.

The point is if Israel should make the mistake of attacking Iraq, there is no telling what the Iraqi reaction will be. Iraq has just emerged victorious from a war in which her enemy was better armed and equipped, and Iraqi military expertise is invaluable.

How do you elaborate on the fact that existing Arab reality is different from the way it was in the past?

In the past, those interested in the Middle East area, particularly the part which belonged to the Arabs tried to apply the rule which says "Divide and Rule", and they managed to succeed in their schemes. Israel used to play the same trick. However, with the advent of the nineties, the Arab world has been witnessing a massive wave of cohesion, as embodied in the efforts of the Arab League, the Arab League of the GCC, ACC and Arab Maghreb Union. Arab efforts and planning are no longer made individually by 14 countries, but emanates from three main powerful sources

characterised by uniformity of opinion, clarity of vision and sharing of similar views. Hence, it is now more easy to reach effective solutions to existing problems.

For example, the threats to Iraq by Israel has led to intensifying efforts to sort out existing differences between Iraq and Syria. Consequently, the current Arab situation no longer provides chances to Israel to attempt the domination of the Middle East area or reinforce its position in the international arena.

Has the Arab world been able during this period to establish better relations with other countries?

The emergence of the aforementioned three Arab co-operation councils, the tendency now have changed, the Arabs are no longer easy to divide by Israel and its two supporting powers. It will not attack Iraq and there is no doubt about that, as geographically, Iraqi lands occupy vast area and Israel will not be able to tell which part to attack and will not even be able to occupy any of the Iraqi lands since Iraq is not located close to Israel.

This is being done at a time when Israel emerges as the only entity that wants and advertises war in the area to achieve its ends. This state of affairs has won the Arabs illustrious world recognition, different from what they were thought of before: "war-mongers and saboteurs of peace in the area," due to the anti-Arab Israeli propaganda.

It is now clear that Israel is suffering political unrest due to world pressure to further peace initiatives, but Israel has intentionally designed this situation with Iraq to relieve pressure. Iraq, however has strongly emphasised that it has the right weapons to defend herself, and that these weapons are for her national protection against aggressors.

The current Arab position in the international political arena is better than before, and it is sufficient to see that EEC representatives come to meet with GCC representatives to agree on a unified formula of co-operation throughout the decade of the nineties. This illustrates the powerful role that the Arabs have assumed.



Sheikh Hamad ... wave of cohesion

Do you think that the international interest in oil will push world powers to establish control positions in the oil-producing countries?

No return to colonisation is possible in our world of today. Since the Arab Gulf countries have won their independence there has been no attempt to exercise pressure on their decisions, sovereignty or national entity. The international need for oil has made us increase our oil marketing activities to establish mutual co-operation relations. When the situation in the area was war-torn, Kuwait registered its tankers in the US and the Soviet Union. If it were not for the common co-operation interests between the area and these countries, no serious attempt would have been made to protect this strategic substance.

We are dealing with these mutual interests with rationality, and it is clear that there is no attempt at colonisation. If these countries should attempt to monopolise the oil flow into their

markets, we will keep our oil burned in the land for ever.

What is your opinion of current events in the Soviet Union. Will these affect its position as the second superpower in the world?

Even if some of the Soviet republics should attain independence they remain geographic areas that could not undermine the existing world role of the Soviet Union. The wave of openness in the Soviet Union is the reason behind the recent changes in the world. The Soviets will not disappear from the international stage as a superpower, although there are other powers developing and emerging in the meantime, such as the Chinese and the Arabs particularly if the current co-ordination of Arab political and economic policies remains strong.

Amidst efforts at sorting out intra-Arab differences, have the Gulf states been able to resolve their problems?

The social and historical relations between the Gulf states are

strong and distinguished, and therefore the language of understanding is easy, let alone the strong mutual relations between them which also facilitate dialogue.

At the last GCC summit in Muscat, GCC leaders stressed in their concluding statement that the existing problems in the area will be resolved by dialogue and via diplomatic channels, and that no problems must be sorted out through wars or aggression between brothers. The statement said that problems can be solved with dual or collective efforts. And this was followed by the demarcation of the borders between Oman and Saudi Arabia, which strongly reflects the credibility of the Muscat summit.

Bahrain has of late received a batch of military aircraft. Will these be used exclusively in Bahrain or will other GCC states be able to benefit from these air defences in time of need?

I truly wish that the existing economic co-ordination between the GCC members reflects the same level of co-operation and co-ordination in the military field. Military co-operation between the GCC states is a must imposed by the requirements of the current stage, as represented by the establishment of the "Peninsula Shield" force. It is the first Arab military unit combining six armies with integrated capabilities and operations for the task of joint defence against any foreign attempts to tamper with the security of the region. The Gulf military force has shown considerable competence and technological efficiency.

Do you think it is now the time to revise the Arab League Charter, now that Egypt has been readmitted into the Arab fold?

There is a strong wish to carry out this revision where the main emphasis will be laid on the unanimous approval of issued decisions or by the majority of the delegates, particularly in as far as peace or war decisions are concerned. The revision is needed to deal with the requirements of the current stage. The current situation of intra-Arab relations differs greatly from what it used to be. Arab leaderships are no longer affected by personal motives which characterised the political decisions of the stage before, and the atmosphere in the Arab world is beginning to improve at considerable speed and thanks to God no setbacks have occurred.



Amir visits Failaka

The Amir visited Failaka Island on Wednesday in the framework of his visits to the popular places during the holy month of Ramadan.

HH exchanged friendly talks with visitors of Failaka's traditional cafe which HH visited. HH was accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Defence and Acting Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber and Sheikh Majid Jaber Al Hammood, Amir Diwan undersecretary and secretary for Social Affairs and Labour Abdel Rahman Al Mazroui.

Salem hails results of narcotics conference

LONDON, April 13, (Kuna): Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Wednesday hailed the results reached by the three-day ministerial summit conference on combatting drug trafficking.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Salem said the conference was "successful and good," commending the role being played by the Kuwaiti delegation.

"No doubt, the Kuwaiti presence in the conference was of clear effect particularly through participation of the members of the Kuwaiti higher committee for combatting drugs," Sheikh Salem elaborated.

The Kuwaiti delegation played an active role in the deliberations and the conference's committees, Sheikh Salem said, noting that several delegations have appreciated this role.

Sheikh Salem said Kuwait is keen to contribute in fighting drugs trafficking in general, despite the fact that Kuwait is neither a producing nor a consuming country of narcotics.

Meanwhile the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reiterated its determination to combat the menace of drugs, the Saudi Press Agency said.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz has issued his directives to take appropriate measures for combatting drugs, said Dr Hamad Al Marzouki, Director General of the Crime Research Centre at the Interior Ministry.

Dr Marzouki, who addressed the international summit conference on drugs, currently in progress in London, noted that the anti-drugs department has been co-operating with the other concerned authorities like the departments of police, traffic, customs and the frontiers corps in combatting drugs.

The most important element in combatting drugs is making obtaining drugs a difficult task, he said.

Moreover, the kingdom has been implementing capital punishment for drug smugglers, he pointed out.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Construction budget

KUWAIT, April 13, (Kuna): The Ministerial Committee for Planning held a meeting Wednesday headed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

The meeting was held at the Planning Ministry building and attended by the committee members.

Planning undersecretary, who is also general co-ordinator for the plan and rapporteur of the ministerial committee, Abdulhadi Al Awadi said that the committee discussed the prerequisites of the development plan for the construction projects during the next five-year plan of 90/91/94-1995.

He also said the committee presented the budget of the construction projects for the ministries and government departments for the first year of 90-1991 plan.

Hungary-Kuwait contract

BUDAPEST, April 13, (Kuna): The Hungarian coachbuilding factory Ikarus yesterday signed a contract with Kuwait Passenger Transport Company for the delivery of 91 Ikarus buses, it was reported here today.

This new export will raise the total number of Ikarus vehicles running in Kuwait to 450.

The contract is for 11 urban buses and 80 luxury coaches, and the total value is US\$9 million.

Each of the vehicles comes complete with air-conditioning, a Dutch Daf engine, and West German automatic gear-box.

Ikarus will deliver the 11 buses and 50 of the coaches this year, and the remaining 30 coaches in 1991.

Travel ban

THE travel ban division at the Ministry of Justice, issued 2,012 travel bans against persons wanted for different cases during last Jan and Feb.

Statistics published by the Computer Centre at the Ministry of Justice indicated that the Judgements Execution Department had issued 2,774 judgements during the same period.

Forged licences wrap-up

THE relevant security authorities are reportedly wrapping up investigations into the forged driving permits case, as more details are beginning to come to light.

The primary suspect is an Arab identified as Abu Ziad, who used to collect money from applicants in return for obtaining the signature of the colonel involved in the case.

A local daily reported that the colonel is leading a luxurious life and his sons occupy key positions in certain ministries and possess private properties.

Cornea operations

RIYADH, April 13, (Kuna): Two cornea transplantation operations were successfully conducted at Riyadh-based King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital in the last ten days.

The transplantation operations, which were conducted in collaboration with the National Kidney Centre and the Eye Bank at King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital, were conducted for Mohammed Farhan Al Farhan, a Saudi, and a six-month-old Saudi child Muna Al Mistari.

Indian embassy

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy has stated that the embassy in Kuwait will remain closed on Saturday, April 14, 1990 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr B. R. Ambedkar.

18 die in mountain shootouts in Iran

NICOSIA, April 13 (AP): Iranian security forces yesterday killed 18 bandits and "anti-revolutionaries" in shootouts in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province. Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said 9 armed bandits and as many "anti-revolutionary and alien elements" were killed by security men.

The nine bandits were surrounded in their mountain hideout and killed in a six-hour gunbattle, the Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Nicosia, said.

The vague radio report gave no details of the circumstances in which the other nine were killed. Anti-revolutionary is an Iranian epithet for a wide-ranging number of crimes, from dissent to espionage and armed struggle to trying to overthrow the government.

The radio said a small cache of weapons, including rifles, grenades and rocket propelled grenades were confiscated from the bandits and anti-revolutionaries.

Iran said a 100 sacks of opium were burned when security men set fire to the bandits' camp.

The Iranian media, which in the past provided details of frequent shootouts with drug smugglers or bandits, have recently been issuing only sketchy reports about similar incidents.

Zayed for Japan

TOKYO, April 13, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan will pay an official visit to Japan on May 13 to 16, it was announced here today.

Sheikh Zayed will be accompanied by the UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mami Al Utayba, Foreign Ministry sources said.

In his first ever visit here Sheikh Zayed will hold talks with Japanese Emperor Akihito and the Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Vintage rally fliers grouping in Bahrain

Retracing old British mail route

MANAMA, April 13, (AP): International fliers and their pre-1950 single-engine aircraft gathered in Bahrain yesterday during an epic 10,000-mile (16,000-km) journey that retraces Britain's old Imperial Airways mail route.

In Bahrain, the World Vintage Air Rally Ltd., will be a third way through the route that was used between 1930 to 1940 from England to Australia.

The gathering is the largest fleet of historic aircraft assembled in recent years - De Havilland Dragons, Cessnas, Beeches, and Pipers are among some of the more well-known carriers.

The rally participants, many in their 70s, will be competing for the best time and sportsmanship.

As they touch down in over 16 countries with average stretches of 164 miles (262 kms). The vintage air fleet are landing at 25 of the 31 original stops made on the old air route, most of which have never been visited by modern aircraft.

Drop outs

There have been stops in Italy, Greece, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and from Bahrain there will be stops in the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Thailand and Bali before Australia.

Eighteen of the 24 craft that were at the starting point in London in the last week of March, have managed to accomplish the distance to Saudi Arabia.

The attrition included a crash in England and an engine fire over the Mediterranean, with no injuries.

Lang Kidby, the 41-year-old Australian rally organiser, landed at Bahrain's International Airport late Wednesday, ahead of the others, after a 7-hour flight from Jeddah, the Saudi Red Sea port city.

Kidby reported yet another dropout in Saudi Arabia. "So far, the trip has been a smooth one with the exception of a few mishaps," he said. "Over Saudi Arabia, one of our planes

had a small propeller engine fire, and was forced to land in the desert."

He said the authorities there did not permit them to take off again immediately, and so they spent the night in a small Saudi village.

The rally is in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the first single-engine light aircraft flight from the United Kingdom to Australia, the 60th anniversary of the first passenger flight with Imperial Airways, and the 55th anniversary of the first regular airmail flight.

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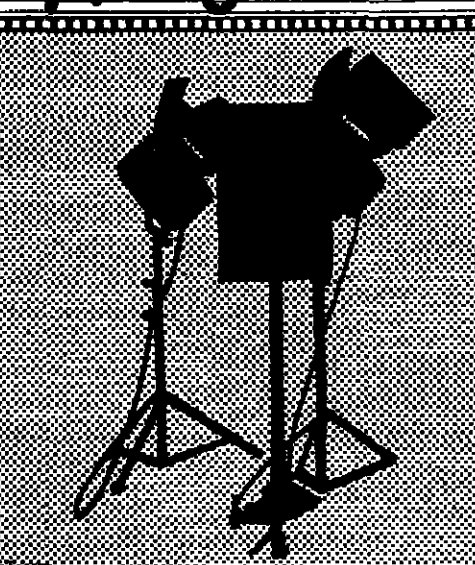
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DILIGENCE is the mother of good fortune — Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish novelist (1547-1616).

King changes tune

Ban lifted on Nepal parties

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Nepal's absolute monarch has found out the hard way that the Himalayan borders of his remote kingdom are no barrier to international fervour for democracy.

King Birendra lifted a 30-year-old ban on political parties on Sunday after police had shot dead dozens of people to try to crush a seven-week democracy campaign.

The royal proclamation promised changes "reflecting ... the international environment which obtains today."

"In that Himalayan isolation, for the king to explain his decisions partly as coming from international processes is very remarkable," said Bhabani Sen Gupta of New Delhi's Centre for Policy Research, an independent think-tank.

"(Aid) donor countries are telling him, 'you've got to talk to the democracy movement'. It's the only way you can read this statement," Den Gupta said on Tuesday.

India and China, the regional superpowers which surround landlocked Nepal, have avoided any hint of pressure on the monarch.

Diplomats say advice to King Birendra to bow to intense popular pressure has come from the United States and continental Europe — West Germany, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland.

Some \$400 million in aid had been budgeted this year for Nepal, most of it in the form of concessional loans.

This represents 30 per cent of the gross domestic product of one of the world's poorest countries, where annual income per head averages \$160.

Donors have been criticised by supporters of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), now negotiating for free elections and a constitutional monarch.

They allege that much of the aid has been siphoned off in corruption while donors framed a picture postcard view of Nepal as a model of stability in a turbulent Third World.

Nepal, closed to the world until the early 1950s, has caught up much faster than diplomats expected with international political aspirations.

Diplomats were not helped in assessing the level of popular resentment against the king by traditional Nepalese reticence. Many Nepalese traditionally revere their monarch as a descendant of the Hindu god Vishnu and long prison terms have awaited overt critics.

The people of the Kathmandu Valley went public in force with their feelings only last Friday, when tens of thousands marched on the royal palace.

Hospital sources said security forces shot dead 50 people to halt the march. The government put the toll at six while the opposition said between 150 and 200 were killed.

"Everybody was taken by surprise," Sen Gupta said. "I think everyone's picture of Nepal was a peaceful little place, resting happily in the hands of the king."

But as the MRD had gathered momentum in the wake of the democracy movements of Eastern Europe, Nepal found it hard to convince diplomats that the movement was a communist plot.

Pressure

There has been donor pressure on the king, diplomats say. Much of it has been private, but the US State Department pulled no punches in denouncing Friday's decision to open fire outside the royal palace.

Japan, a major donor, has probably put pressure too, Sen Gupta said. It had given no fresh aid to Nepal on the grounds that the unrest had impeded the planning of new projects.

There has been strong popular support for the MRD in India, which prides itself of being the world's most populous democracy. The Nepali Congress Party, the main force behind the MRD, has close links with India's opposition Congress Party.

Indian governments traditionally dislike dealing with authoritarian neighbours and are also watchful of Nepal's relations with China, which fought a border war with India in 1962.

But India's government appears to have stuck to a promise that it will not bully subcontinental neighbours.

Probably the least enthusiastic observer of the Nepalese upheaval has been China.

Nepal borders Tibet, where the capital Lhasa has been under martial law since pro-independence demonstrations led to violent clashes with Chinese security forces a year ago.

"China is very sensitive to any form of democratisation in Nepal," a diplomat in Beijing said.

On Monday the king, an absolute monarch, had yet to agree to submit himself to parliamentary control or to dismiss the unpopular Panchayat, councils chosen in non-party polls.

Some democracy campaigners stayed off the streets to mull over the fine print of the royal proclamation.

Leader

"That's what I've been thinking about all night, one of the reasons I'm at home," said Devendra Raj Panday, a human rights leader freed from detention on Saturday.

"If you were to listen to the slogans they're shouting outside, they're celebrating the fall of the Panchayat system — and the system's still very much here."

He endorsed the decision by party politicians to negotiate once the king lifted the 30-year-old ban on their activities.

"We can't afford any more killings," Panday said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1544 — Denmark repudiates its alliance with France.
- 1629 — Peace of Susa ends war between England and France.
- 1672 — Alliance is signed between France and Sweden against Dutch.
- 1834 — Republican uprising in France is crushed by army under Adolphe Thiers.
- 1849 — Hungarian Diet proclaims independence with Louis Kossuth as governor-president.
- 1865 — US President Abraham Lincoln is shot by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., and he dies the following morning.
- 1890 — Delegates to Washington Conference of American States create what is to become Pan American Union.
- 1912 — Liner Titanic strikes iceberg in North Atlantic, and more than 1,500 lives are lost when ship sinks.
- 1931 — King Alfonso flees in Spanish revolution, and Alcala Zamora becomes president of provisional government.
- 1945 — US bombers pound Tokyo and Japan's imperial palace in World War II.
- 1970 — US Apollo 13 spacecraft heads back to earth after moon mission that had to be aborted because of mechanical problems.
- 1972 — Terrorists set off chain of explosions across Northern Ireland, killing several people.
- 1977 — Soviet Union orders its fishing fleet to observe strictly new fishing regulations set by United States off its coasts.
- 1987 — Syrian troops deploy at outskirts of Lebanese port city of Sidon — farthest south they have been since Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.
- 1988 — Soviet Union signs accord to end its intervention in Afghanistan and to allow Red Army to start troop withdrawal.
- 1989 — Chad government says it has thwarted rebellion against President Hissene Habre.

Victory shows East bloc political trend

Conservatives win Hungary polls

Antall may head govt

BUDAPEST, Hungary, (AP): Voters ended the communist era by giving a strong government mandate to Hungary's main conservative party in what could be a centre-right political trend among Soviet bloc countries.

The Hungarian Democratic Forum, which campaigned on a platform of anti-communism, conservative values and Hungarian pride, scored an impressive victory in parliamentary elections that ended Sunday.

The Democratic Forum captured 165 of the 386 seats at stake Sunday and in the first round of voting March 25 — 42.75 per cent of all the parliamentary mandates, according to unofficial final results.

Despite forecasts of a close race, the liberal League of Free Democrats got only 92 seats and 23.83 per cent of the mandates, forcing the rival party to bury any aspirations of sharing a government role.

The ruling socialists, created by reformist communists last October, won just 8.55 per cent of the seats. Despite their commitment to political plurality, the socialists were hurt by their legacy of decades of repressive communist rule.

The Democratic Forum's strong showing meant it could form and dominate a coalition with parties that share its conservative views — the agrarian Smallholders and the Christian Democrats.

The Smallholders captured 11.14 per cent of the mandates, and the Christian Democrats were tied for fifth with 5.44 per cent. Thus, a conservative coalition headed by the Democratic Forum would control nearly 60 per cent of the national legislature.

It was the second consecutive victory in Soviet bloc elections for conservative forces. Conservatives also won big in East Germany's Mar 18 vote, falling just short of a majority, in the first free national elections in any Warsaw Pact country.

As in Hungary, the remnants of the long-ruling communists were relegated to a relatively minor opposition role in East Germany.

There was no clear conservative trend in Poland last June, when voters participating in their freest elections in more than four decades endorsed Solidarity candidates sharing an anti-communist bent but no particular ideological platform.

But conservatives in other East European countries preparing for the first free elections in more than four decades clearly hope that the same anti-communist backlash that worked in favour of kindred parties in East Germany and Hungary will also give them an edge.

In Czechoslovakia, where voters go to the polls June 8, the hope of victory has resulted in the Christian Democrats in Slovakia forging an alliance with Czech centre-rightists, despite a general drifting apart of the two constituent republics. Only the conservatives have managed to formally co-ordinate their election strategies nation-wide.

The Slovak Christian Democrats, led by Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky, are expected to win up to 60 per cent of the vote in their traditionally Roman Catholic republic, and the well-organised alliance is likely to finish strong overall in the country.

The election picture is confusing in Romania, where about 70 political parties have sprung up or been revived in the wake of the December revolution that ended the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu.

But the nation's strongest conservative force, the 700,000-member National Peasants' Party, is given the best chance of defeating the National Salvation Front.

The front took control of the country in the chaos of the revolution but was later forced to share some power. It is suspected by many conservatives of harbouring unrepentant communists.

The Peasants' hand has been strengthened by an election alliance with the liberals and Social Democrats — the two other leading parties — the mandates co-operation up to May 30, when voters are to go to the polls, in an effort to defeat the National Salvation Front. Shared antipathy toward the front may even translate into a government coalition led by the Peasants' Party, despite the three parties' diverging ideologies.

BUDAPEST, (Reuters): A 58-year-old museum director, Jozsef Antall, is likely to be Hungary's first freely-elected prime minister after more than four decades of communism.

Antall marked his birthday on Sunday by leading his conservative Hungarian Democratic Forum to a landslide victory in the second and decisive round of Hungary's first free national parliamentary elections since 1945.

As results flooded in, he said he aimed for a coalition with two other conservative parties — the Independent Smallholders and the Christian Democratic People's Party.

Antall has said the forum combines a patriotic farming tradition dating back to the 1930s, Hungarian liberalism and Christian democracy.

Founded

"I am a patriotic, liberal Christian Democrat," he said.

The forum was founded in semi-legality in September 1987 by a group of writers looking for a way to introduce politics as communism began to crumble.

Although he was at the founding meeting, Antall came to prominence in the forum only last summer when

was central in "round-table" talks between eight opposition groups and the Communist Party.

Those talks paved the way for Hungary's return to Western-style democracy and for groups like the forum to register and compete as political parties. Antall was elected president of the forum last October.

A man of medium build with thick grey hair, bushy eyebrows, a slight stoop and a heavy lower lip, Antall exudes the authority of a strict, reserved but friendly headmaster.

He was born on April 8, 1932, the son of a leading anti-Nazi member of the Independent Smallholders' Party who served as a minister for construction after World War II.

He was educated as a historian at the University of Budapest but was banned from teaching after spreading a few days working for the Smallholders during the 1956 Hungarian uprising against Soviet domination, a revolt crushed by Soviet tanks.

Worked

Thereafter he worked in the neutral field of medical history where, he is pleased to stress, he could avoid writing Marxist theory. He eventually became director of

Budapest's Semmelweis museum of Medical History.

Although never associated with the openly dissident circle which grew into the alliance of free democrats, Antall was regarded as a potential danger by the communist authorities.

He was kept under close watch during the Czechoslovak "Prague Spring" crisis of 1968 and the rise of the Solidarity free trade union in Poland in the early 1980s.

"I always had an interest in politics, but only in a democracy with Parliament and freedom," he said, recalling family discussions of politics with his father over meals.

As the Communist Party relaxed its grip in Hungary before transforming itself into a Western-style socialist party last October, Antall was head-hunted by both the parties with which the forum now wants to form a coalition.

He chose the forum, which has received backing from the US Republican Party and West Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union, as the party offering all three political principles he holds dear.



Nidal scales down activities

NICOSIA, (Reuters): Under pressure from its latest mentor, Libya's Muammar Khaddafi, a group led by the world's most wanted commando Abu Nidal on Tuesday released a European couple and their baby girl after two years of unexplained captivity.

The kidnapping of the couple among a family group from a yacht in the Mediterranean in November 1987 was an unusual departure for the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), set up by the Palestinian hardliner in 1973.

Most of the FRC's previous actions were clearly born of Abu Nidal's unswerving hatred of Israel and of Arabs seeking a political settlement with it.

Although he is widely believed to be in Libya, a cloak of mystery is maintained over his whereabouts.

But what is certain is that his bloody war has been largely scaled down by a bitter internal rift within his FRC and tightening of screws of his activities by Khaddafi now eager for better ties with his Arab neighbours and Western detractors.

Abu Nidal has waged a war across three continents with killings, bombings and hijacks, a true revolutionary to his allies but to his enemies a

megalomaniac dancing at different times to the tune of Iraqi, Syrian or Libyan intelligence.

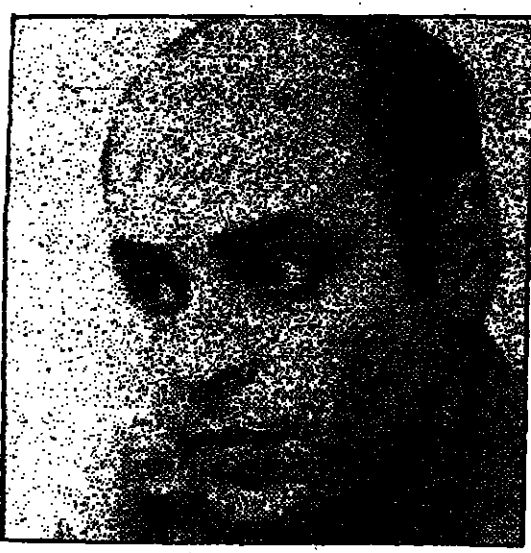
His FRC broke away from the mainstream Fatah organisation of Yasser Arafat in 1973, and since 1987 has had its headquarters in Tripoli, although this is denied by the Libyan authorities.

Its alleged presence there was one reason why the United States last January renewed trade and diplomatic sanctions against Libya.

But Palestinian sources in Tripoli said soon afterwards that Abu Nidal's organisation had been thrown out of its offices in the Souq Al Jumaa quarter of Tripoli and its training camp in nearby Al Sawani.

In October 1988 two leading members, Atef Abu Bakr and Abdelrahman Isa, broke away from the FRC and accused Abu Nidal of killing 156 of his associates, including relatives, in recent purges.

Diplomats in Tripoli said the split in the movement encouraged Libya to clamp down further on FRC activities, but it would not acknowledge having neutralised the FRC until such time as Washington indicated clearly it wanted to talk to Khaddafi.



Abu Nidal: released hostages

Letters to the editor

Role denied

SIR: This is with reference to a letter which appeared in the AT issue of 9/4 under the title "Approb role". It appears that the writer had taken a few stiff ones before writing the letter and the smell of whisky to which he alludes must have come from his own big mouth.

The letter is a fabrication from beginning to the end. Approb is short for Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen. Where the writer makes his Jewish connection defeats one's imagination.

It appears that the writer has been given a special portfolio by the Islamic ummas at large to question all Muslims as to whether they are Muslims only by name and, without attending a seminar, brand the association which organised the seminar as one that desecrates Islamic ideology merely on hearsay.

The writer then goes on to try and link Approb, through a founder member, with whom he has an axe to grind, to an event where Pakistani girls danced to disco music, funds were collected and cards/prizes were distributed free to bribe the general public!

I am sure the writer has some twisted logic with which he can explain why anyone would go to the bother of collecting funds and then squander them away by distributing cards, prizes free. As a member of Approb, I can categorically deny involvement of Approb with any such programme. The writer's alleg-

tions are libelous and devoid of all facts. One wishes that such persons should at least get the facts right before writing about an organisation.

The writer then concludes by saying that the panel of judges for the essay "My role in building a better Pakistan" should be "Pakistani". All the judges are prominent Pakistanis! What the writer forgets is that a Pakistani, whether he assumes another nationality or not, does not cease to love or cherish his country and is always fit to judge an essay on Pakistan.

The writer continues with his sick logic to simply state that the third judge does not know anything about Pakistan! I am not sure by what right he has made these judgements, and am appalled that such a person can write nonsensical letters in a foreign press to malign his country's good image and throw dirt at others.

I sincerely hope that in future, such people will settle their personal scores in some other manner and refrain from writing letters that do not make sense and are an insult to normal intelligence and proper and constructive criticism.

An Approb member,
(Name & address supplied).

No recognition

SIR: Following two letters on the Welfare Society for Goans in the Arab Times last week, I am compelled to

make the comments as it concerns Goans here.

We do not recognise the Welfare Society as we have not been told about it. From the reports it is learnt that the management of the Welfare Society is headed by a man of the Kuwaiti Goans Association. Is this W.S. represented by the Kuwaiti Goans, are they running it by another name?

Yes, Goans have benefited from the Kuwaiti/Goa flight promotion and they are indeed grateful to those who have worked hard to achieve it. Here special mention has to be made of Avertano Furtado and Vincent de Souza and others on the committee. We Goans still would back up the old committee until we are sure what this Welfare Society can do.

About the May Queen, we Goans have enough other clubs here to organise such functions for Goans, we do not want Welfare Society to give us more dances. Let them work to uplift the lower class of Goans in their difficulties.

Gregory D'Sa,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Kurds flee insurgency

CIZRE, Turkey, (Reuters): Kurdish families are fleeing their ancestral mountain villages and heading for the safety of big towns, away from the heart of a growing separatist insurgency in southeast Turkey.

"We had no peace left in the mountains. We were frightened," said Osman Celik, who has brought his two wives and four children to Cizre town, 30 km (19 miles) north of Iraq.

"It was dangerous to go out at night. It was dangerous to pasture animals," he said in a market place where more than 20 homeless families from the mountains are living in tin rooms.

More than 90 people have been killed in the southeast since the beginning of March in an insurgency by guerrillas seeking a separate state for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds, nearly a fifth of the country's population.

Ideal

The rugged, barren mountains are ideal terrain for the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) fighters, whose spring offensive is the fiercest of their six-year-old campaign.

Celik said his ancestral village of Andac, a ridge overlooking the Iraqi border, was now deserted. It once had a thriving population of 350.

"The rebels were coming to our homes at night. With weapons. We were left between fires," said Abdulselam Isk, from another village, referring to the frequent clashes between the guerrillas and government troops.

But Cizre and other mainly Kurdish towns are not immune from the rebellion, which has claimed 2,000 lives since it began.

At least four people were shot dead in Cizre last month in anti-government demonstrations. Officials said protesters set fire to government buildings and burned Turkish flags.

Security forces clamped a 36-hour curfew on the town on Mar 20 and more than 70 people were arrested. Protests seeking greater rights for Kurds also flared in other southeastern towns and in universities in Istanbul and Ankara.

Co-operating

Regional Governor Hayri Kozakoglu told Reuters the PKK had begun co-operating with smaller Kurdish rebel groups, mainly leftists.

"The events in Cizre are a result of this policy," he said. Economic problems contributed to the town's problems, he added.

Unemployment is above 20 per cent in the region, one of the country's poorest.

"There aren't many jobs around. Many young men from my family have nothing to do," said a 20-year-old waiter in a backstreet coffeehouse.

President Turgut Ozal has promised government help for the southeast. "They will be a more compassionate policy and support for the local people," he announced last week.

"But a warning to the rebels, he added: 'We have one condition only. Loyalty to the Turkish Republic.' Armed headquarters and order weapons might be sent to fight them," he added.

Violence

In Cizre, Kurdish civilians mingle uneasily on the sidewalks with Turkish troops and police commands.

Tanks, armoured cars and bullet-riddled shop windows are testimony to the violence that struck the town last month.

"We are frightened," a shopkeeper said to a reporter.

Turkey does not recognise its Kurds as a minority and bans the use of Kurdish as an official language.

On a coffeehouse wall is a hand-knit decoration bearing the orange, green and red colours of the flag of Kurdistan, for which PKK claims an area of Turkey about the half the size of Italy.

"They (the security forces) pick people up at night from homes saying they are PKK collaborators," said Zemo, a 28-year-old Kurdish woman.

Her almond-shaped eyes clouded with fear as a soldier crossed the main street.

Celik knew what he wants from the government. "The state must build homes for us. It must provide jobs for us. We have forgotten what meat is like, what vegetables are like," he said.

"I sold my sheep, I sold my goats. I spent all the money I brought with me from my village. We are hungry now," he said.

QUOTE ME

"My message to the Belgians and Europeans is that we are in such an important period that the new Israeli government must be encouraged to go forward in the peace process, confront reality and deal with us as a people and not as a minority. From what I hear (Peres) is determined to pursue the peace process. As far as we are concerned, he will have to behave differently from Likud." — Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini to La Libre Belgique newspaper.

"The two powers are committed and negotiators are confident they can do the job. This is the last planned session before the summit." — A US official on super power chemical arms treaty.

"The occasion is normally preceded by a week or two of merry-making, dancing and drinking through the villages by the young men due to be circumcised. They are accompanied by young girls, carrying green branches, who go from one homestead to the next, asking for gifts for the boy who faces the knife." — Petero Gidudu, an elder of Mungu village, Uganda on circumcision rites in Uganda.

"You can't allow atrocities to deflect us from the purpose of the conference. I was invited there as president of the European Council to discuss the whole situation that will arise for (Irish) people north and south. My visit will be worthwhile in a totally non-political context." — Irish Premier Haughey rejecting suggestions from Protestant politicians in N. Ireland that he should cancel his visit to Belfast.

"What is needed is that a process begin that can result in a genuine dialogue so that the situation can be handled in a peaceful manner. What is not needed is a further escalation of tensions." — US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler urging negotiation to settle the Lithuanian issue.

"Paying lip service to perestroika, some party card-carrying members have begun attacking the party from inside, up from the grassroots. The moment is ripe when, without giving those should remain in the party ranks who are persistently who by their views and conduct have actually placed themselves outside the party." — Soviet Communist Party Central Committee in a letter to party members.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) meets with US senators including Senate Republican leader Robert Dole (left) and Senator McCain (center) in a meeting.

Arabs, enraged by West, rally to Iraq's defence

Changes in the East and Soviet Union fracture the political map of Mideast

CAIRO, April 13, (Reuters): Arab states, rallying to Iraq's defence in its row with the West, are genuinely enraged by what they regard as unwarranted bullying tactics.

"They resent the West singling out an Arab country for a lecture in morality when it is the United States and its allies that have nuclear and chemical arsenals," a diplomat said.

Iraq has been accused of trying to smuggle nuclear weapons from the United States, while in Britain officials seized what they suspected was a huge "doomsday gun" being shipped to Iraq disguised as parts for a petrochemical plant.

Baghdad has dismissed the charges as baseless. Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein's declaration last week that he had no need of nuclear arms because Iraq had binary chemical weapons provoked nervousness and envy in many Arab countries, diplomats said.

Described as the poor man's nuclear bomb, chemical arms were an attractive option for some Arabs who saw themselves fighting a losing battle against Israel's state-of-the-art technology supplied free by the United States.

Arabs believed Israel has at least 200 nuclear warheads. Iraq was reported to have killed

thousands of Kurds during the Gulf war with a chemical attack on the border town of Halabja in 1985. Baghdad has denied gassing Kurds.

Arab insecurity prompted by rapid change in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe also underpinned the vociferous support for Saddam's warning that he would retaliate against any Israeli attack by burning half of the Jewish state.

Arab radicals could no longer count on the unflinching support of Moscow, the diplomats said, while recognition of Israel on the part of newly-emergent democracies like Poland had fractured the political map of the Middle East.

"There are worries that East European economies could soak up Western credit and that Soviet Jews might swamp Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories," said the diplomat.

"This encourages Arabs to adopt the posture of a porcupine, rolling up and presenting a barbed front in an uncertain world."

Behind the scenes, however, was some unease over Saddam's aggressive bid for primacy in Arab affairs and his championing of the Palestinian cause, diplomats said.

Syria came untypically to Iraq's aid,

saying Arabs must band together after Saddam's threat of retaliation prompted an outcry in Israel and the United States.

Under President Hosni Mubarak's leadership, Cairo projects the image of moderate peace-maker, seeking to dampen inter-Arab tensions and mediate an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

It mended ties with Syria last December after they were broken in 1977 over Egypt's overtures to the Jewish state and Cairo has joined Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen in forming an economic bloc, the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

Shamir vows to block creation of Peres govt

Religious party deputy withdraws his resignation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 13, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir predicted yesterday he would be able to block the creation of a government led by Labour's Shimon Peres and establish a coalition led by his right-wing Likud Party.

Peres' plans to present a Labour-led coalition for parliamentary approval on Wednesday were dashed when two ultra-orthodox religious party members of parliament withdrew their backing despite a signed agreement.

form a government. Asked whether he would consider another national unity government, Shamir said, "if they suggest it, we will examine it."

Shortly after the collapse of the government last month, Shamir turned down a request by Peres to join another coalition government.

Amid reports of internal Labour disputes and possible calls of Peres' removal as head of the party, former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday he would continue to help Peres establish a government under the conditions of the Labour leader's presidential mandate. Rabin, an architect of Israel's peace initiative, is considered a possible replacement for Peres as leader of the centre-left Labour Party.

"I see national and party importance to prevent the setting up of a right-wing narrow government led by the Likud," Rabin said in a statement. "In time, the institutions of the Labour will have to take steps to ensure this."

President Chaim Herzog gave Peres, who decided against seeking a vote of confidence because of the last-minute turn of events, a 15-day extension of his initial 21-day mandate to form a government.

"First of all we will prevent the setting up of a government headed by the Labour," Shamir told Army radio. "After this happens, after the setting up of such a government is prevented, I suppose that the President will impose on someone from the Likud the task of setting up a government."

Shamir's government fell in a vote of no-confidence March 15, two days after the 15-month-old Labour-Likud "national unity" government coalition collapsed.

While Peres has been trying to collect a majority in the 120-member Israeli parliament, the Knesset, to win a vote of confidence, Shamir has been lobbying for support to block the Labour leader's efforts.

Shamir's Likud Party had tried hard to persuade him to stay in parliament and support a right-led government.

Labour had hoped Verdiger would stick to his resignation, allowing Agudat Israel to appoint a successor who would vote for Peres.

Verdiger said on Wednesday he had been influenced by New York-based Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, head of the Lubavitch Jewish sect, who opposes ceding any part of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Labour leaders were meeting in Tel Aviv to discuss the development, which further dimmed Peres' prospects of restoring a 61-59 majority in the 120-seat parliament.

Schneerson, 88, is the latest elderly sage of emerge as a power broker in Labour's attempts to form a government.

"The worst fear is that the fate of Israel's government is in the hands of a rabbi who lives in Brooklyn, who has never set foot in Israel," the mass circulation Yediot Ahronoth daily said in an editorial.

Schneerson heads the worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch movement and wields influence over two members of the five-man ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel Party which agreed to back Labour leader Peres, giving him a one-seat parliamentary majority.

A key Israeli religious deputy withdrew his resignation from parliament today in a further blow to Peres' attempt to form a government dedicated to peace talks with the Palestinians.

Rabbi Avraham Verdiger, whose defection from an alliance with Labour helped prevent Peres from forming a government in parliament on Wednesday, called instead for national unity.

Shamir predicted Likud would be able to establish a coalition and win a Knesset vote of confidence if it received a presidential mandate to



A Greek orthodox priest reaches up to remove a Star of David (unseen) from the door of a disputed building on Thursday that some 150 Jews had occupied. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tense Good Friday

Settlement angers clergymen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 13, (Reuters): Thousands of Christians will march through the Old City of Jerusalem in a Good Friday procession overshadowed by a violent dispute over a new Jewish settlement in the heart of the Christian quarter.

Pilgrims from all over the world marking the crucifixion of Jesus Christ will walk past the disputed complex housing 150 Jews, located near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional site of Jesus's interment and a key tourist site to which pilgrims flock every year.

The religious Jews moved into the complex late on Wednesday, angering clergymen and Palestinians who saw it as a provocation during Easter week.

Israeli police tear-gassed Christian and Muslim clergymen to quell their protests and fired rubber bullets to disperse masked Arab stone-throwers.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I, who led the march, said police pushed him to the ground and broke an icon he was wearing. Witnesses said police clubbed an aide to Diodoros, who was treated at a church clinic.

"I feel indignation and condemnation and I denounce all these acts. This week is the most sacred

week for Christians, and the Jews have desecrated our holy festivals," the patriarch told journalists.

Later an Israeli court ruled that the site belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church but the Jews obtained an injunction from a higher court that enabled them to remain there at least four more days. The settlers said they had bought the complex from two Armenians who the church said were only tenants.

● The Palestinians human rights group Al Haq accused the Israeli Army on Thursday of killing a 16-year-old Arab youth without provocation in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah last week.

● Ethiopia accused its enemies on Thursday of running a smear campaign over the sensitive issue of the emigration of black Jews to Israel.

The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) did not deny Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas, have emigrated to Israel but said it was no more than normal practice.

● Hungary's Ambassador Erno Simonvi said Wednesday his government has instructed Soviet authorities to stop letting Jewish emigres go to Israel via Budapest until the backlog of those already holding tickets is cleared.

Rocket barrage kills 14 in Kabul

KABUL, April 13, (Reuters): A barrage of rockets, fired by rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government, blasted into Kabul yesterday and killed at least 12 children and two adults, government sources said.

More than 10 people were wounded in the barrage that broke a lull in the capital of more than two weeks, the sources said.

The 12 children were killed at a bus stop by a rocket that smashed into a house near the passenger terminal of Kabul airport, the sources said.

Two adults, one a soldier, were killed by the same missile that hit the house, the sources said.

But there was nobody inside the room that took the direct hit and some people in the next room were unharmed, they said.

The sources said four missiles fell close to the airport damaging property, mainly private houses, but without injuring anyone.

The last rocket attack, on March 27 at the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, killed at least 27 people and wounded 27.

Diplomatic sources said the rockets could have been fired from rebel mountain hideouts in Paghman, northwest of Kabul. There was no immediate official comment on the attack.

Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar told foreign journalists on Wednesday that recent anti-rebel military operations around Kabul had led to the capture of a large number of rockets and reduced attacks on the capital.

The security forces had also reported that they had extended their security belt to up to 50 km (30 miles) from Kabul.

But the latest attack seemed to be a reminder of the rebels' ability to infiltrate that belt.

Ambulances removed the dead and injured within half an hour after the rocketing, witnesses said.

But shoes and other belongings of the children lay scattered on the street more than two hours later.

Kabul has been the target of many rebel rocket attacks during the 11-year-old rebel war.

In Peshawar Afghan rebels and government forces stopped fighting for eight hours to exchange two of their dead near the eastern garrison town of Khost, a rebel commander said yesterday.

The bodies of an air force pilot and a rebel were exchanged at Dar Malook, south of Khost, on Wednesday, rebel commander Jalaluddin Haqqani said in the northwestern Pakistani city Peshawar.

He said the pilot was killed when his fighter crashed near Khost on Monday after being hit by a rebel rocket; other rebel sources said he had been captured alive and killed later.

The rebels who belonged to Haqqani's Hezb-I-Islami group was killed in fighting with government forces the same day.

Haqqani said the two sides contacted each other over radio and agreed to a ceasefire to exchange the two bodies.

Haqqani leads the largest of the groups which have besieged Khost for most of the 11-year-old war between the Western-backed rebels and the Soviet-supported government.



Ex-hostages Ferand Houtekins of Belgium (left) and leave their Paris hotel holding their daughter Sophie. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syria sees hostages free by the year-end

KUWAIT, April 13, (Agencies): Syrian Defence Minister Gen. Mustafa Tlass said in a newspaper interview published yesterday that he was optimistic Western hostages in Lebanon would be freed sometime this year.

Tlass also said Syria's traditional close relations with the Soviet Union had not been affected by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies.

"Our relations with the Soviet Union have not been affected by the political restructuring there known as perestroika, because our relations with the Soviets form a permanent, strategic link," Tlass told the daily Al-Sayassah.

The Soviet Union reportedly informed Damascus recently that it would no longer be able to finance Syria's desire to achieve strategic parity with Israel, would be reducing military aid and would start pulling some 2,000 Soviet technicians out of the country.

"We hope that this year will witness the end of the crisis of foreign hostages held in Lebanon," Tlass told the daily in an interview.

Earlier this week, an Iranian newspaper also predicted that the plight of the 18 Western hostages, who include eight Americans, would end this year. The kidnappers of the hostages are believed to be pro-Iranian Muslim extremists.

Tlass indicated that Syria — Iran's only Arab ally — was trying to secure the freedom of all the hostages, regardless of their nationality. Syria maintains some 35,000 troops in Lebanon and is considered to be the main power-broker there.

Syria, for humanitarian considerations, is exerting efforts to secure the release of all the hostages, regardless of their nationality," the newspaper quoted Tlass as saying.

"The Syrian Foreign Ministry, according to instructions from (Syrian) President Hafez Assad, is doing its utmost to solve this problem once and for all," he said.

Tlass' apparent willingness to try and secure freedom for the hostages came after similar statements from Iranian leaders earlier this year. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also predicted the hostage drama would be concluded by the end of the year.

Libya defended France yesterday against widespread international criticism that Paris had struck a deal with the regime of Col Muammar Khaddafi to obtain the release of three European hostages from Beirut earlier this week.

In a dispatch from Tripoli, the state-run Libyan news agency Jana praised the French socialist government for standing up to "American hegemony" and said London and Washington wanted to "prevent France from playing a special role" in the Middle East and Africa.



Czech President Vaclav Havel meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on his arrival in Prague yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

League envoy visits Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 13, (Reuters): Arab peacemaker Lakhdar Brahimi met Lebanese officials in Beirut on Thursday on a mission aimed at implementing an Arab plan to end 15 years of civil war.

Official sources said Ibrahim held talks with Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Selim Hoss and parliamentary speaker Hussein Hussein and was expected to meet Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi.

An Arab League peace committee met on Sunday in Morocco and sent Ibrahim on the mission.

Hirawi has expressed optimism over a near solution to the war in eastern Beirut, but ruled out any military intervention by the legitimacy to arrive at this goal.

Meanwhile, shells crashed into east Beirut and the Kesrouan province north of Beirut Thursday as rival Christian gunners fought daylong shelling duels.

UK probes Iraq

(Continued from Page 1)

NBC television news reported that Iraq has developed powerful biological weapons capable of endangering whole cities in the Middle East.

The network, quoting US intelligence sources, said Iraq was using an ultra-modern plant with West European equipment to make weapons from anthrax, typhoid and cholera bacteria and viruses.

NBC said experts at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), defence intelligence agency and the Pentagon believed Iraq's germ warfare capabilities "could endanger whole cities in the Middle East."

International inspectors were in Iraq to visit nuclear facilities, including the Osirak reactor bombed by Israel nine years ago, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The state-run Iraqi agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the two inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency were on their "routine" five-day visit.

In Vienna, a spokesman for the IAEA confirmed that the inspectors had been completing a visit of Iraqi facilities on an "entirely routine visit programmed months ago and with no connection with the recent events in that country."

In Baghdad, government-owned newspapers today lashed out at the British government for what they called an orchestrated campaign to defame Iraq and prevent it from acquiring advanced technology.

GDR apologises for holocaust

EAST BERLIN, April 13, (Reuters): East Germany apologised to Israel and all Jews yesterday for the Nazi holocaust and accepted joint responsibility for the slaughter of six million Jews during World War Two.

"East Germany's first freely-elected parliament admits joint responsibility on behalf of the people for the humiliation, expulsion and murder of Jewish women, men and children," said a statement read by Speaker Sabine Bergmann Pohl to a televised session of Parliament.

The vast majority of the 400 deputies backed the statement, which also covered relations with Moscow and post-war borders, in a vote and then all stood in silence out of respect for those who died at the hand of the Nazis.

Israel, meanwhile, welcomed East Germany's recognition of responsibility for the holocaust.

Martial law in Jordan to be scrapped soon, says interior minister

AMMAN, April 13, (AP): Interior Minister Salem Massadeh has said the government next month plans to scrap the 55-year-old defence law under which martial law has been imposed for more than two decades.

The minister told a news conference that the government will propose a new law for potential states of emergency when Parliament resumes its sessions early next month.

"The (new) law will cancel the old law, but it will be inactive until it is used in emergency cases for the national security of the country," Massadeh said.

The move would fulfil a promise made by Prime Minister Mudar Badran in December to cancel both the defence law and martial law within six months.

Jordan declared martial law under the 1955 legislation during its June 1967 war with Israel, and the country has lived under that decree ever since.

But Badran this year stripped military courts of most functions and returned power to civilian tribunals. He declared martial law "frozen."

Both Jordan and Israel inherited versions of the defence law from the British mandate period before World War II.

It provides much of the legal foundation for Israel's detention without trial of thousands of Palestinians during the ongoing uprising on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Massadeh noted that the sweeping range of laws and decrees imposed under martial law over 23 years often affected routine affairs, and he said the government is studying which need to be replaced by new legislation proposed to Parliament.

The action continues a yearlong series of liberalising reforms triggered largely by the April 1989 riots in southern Jordan over economic problems and government

high-handedness.

The Parliament that will consider the new legislation was elected in November during the country's first nation-wide poll since the 1967 war.

Jordan has also returned passports confiscated by the general intelligence department, dropped all travel and work bans and freed all of its purely political prisoners, according to government officials.

Massadeh said 31 people convicted of political offenses remain in prison, but he said all were also convicted of other crimes, such as possession, use or smuggling of arms and explosives.

EVENTS



Madame Tussaud's at the Kuwait International

No! These are the life-like styrofoam creation of Noel Palemo and not exhibits from Madame Tussaud's Museum. Twenty five year old Noel Palemo is Kuwait International's kitchen artist — talented and creative. Noel comes from a province of the Philippines (Paele Laguna) where carving, specially wood carving is an indigenous art and comes



down through the generations. His elementary school project was carving figurines and murals. Over the years his dexterity at vegetable, fruit and styrofoam carving leaves one spellbound and wondering at how those nimble hands move. For the hotel he makes carvings appropriate for all the promotional events taking place.

BBC World Service

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Charles Dickens died on June 10, 1870, at the age of 58. He left behind him a half-written novel set against a background of opium dens and nocturnal graveyard visits. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* has intrigued generations of readers and remains a mystery without a solution. The late actor and writer David Buck who, like Dickens, died at an early age, had been working on the novel just before his death. His five-part dramatisation of the novel and completion written in 1980 by Leon Garfield begins this week and stars Ian Holm and Moir Leslie.

Making matches

Finding a partner of the opposite sex is usually left to chance by Western society but arranged marriages are regarded as the norm by many other cultures. Alenka Lawrence examines modern methods of match-making and the people who have tried them out.

The Dancing Fiddles

Ron Gonella is one of Scotland's foremost fiddle players and an authority in Scottish fiddle music. In the first of a series of eight programmes he is joined by other musicians to play Scottish and Irish music arranged for two fiddles, flute, harp, piano and double bass.

Shakespeare's Stratford

Shakespeare was born in Stratford in 1564. Most of his life was spent in London but on his death in 1616 he was buried in the parish church of his home town on the banks of the River Avon. Derek Blizard visits modern-day Stratford, a busy town of 20,000 people, where the Royal Shakespeare Theatre stages the Bard's plays throughout most of the year and where the Birthplace Trust is fundamental in preserving houses connected with Shakespeare and his family.

On Sunday, April 15 at 05:30 and 19:15 and Monday, April 16 at 10:30.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kaleidoscope
A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music — including: Britten, Gershwin, Elgar, Copland and Sandberg. Frances Coad — voice; Trevor Platt — piano. On April 18th at the British Embassy. For more information Tel. 5318060 ext 19, 8am-1pm.

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90
THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a live Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Airline night
The airline staff launches its second annual get-together at Ramada Al Salam Hotel (Le-Mirage Grand ballroom) on Thursday the April 26, 1990. An evening with live music by top bands, fashion parade, etc. limited reservations. Please contact Celestino, tel. 3420631/2420661 or any staff on 5652073/2429277 (Cynthia).

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fabled lac bangles and design henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Cine Club

Sunday, 15/4: "The Last Emperor." Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 17/4: "Sunshine." Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18/4: "Czech Cartoon Muttet and Cley Show." Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

Sunday, 22/4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure." Dir. by Steven Spielberg. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America." Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers. Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

Anglican services

ST PAUL'S CHURCH.
Ahmadi. Anglican services: Easter Day, 8.30 am. Holy Communion; 11.30 am. Lunchtime family service; 12.30 pm. Lunchtime communion; 6.30 pm. Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group; 7.30-8 pm. Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Passion Week
THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am.

Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata." All are welcome.

Holy week programme at the Holy Family Cathedral Kuwait.

Holy Saturday: 14th April 4.00pm to 6.00pm confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall)

British Council
COAST to Coast. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and fondly remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature.

Lenny Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tania Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson.

DENNIS. Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadhan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents
The Dancer is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

Career and Vocational Guidance

Goan Welfare Society will conduct a seminar on Career and Vocational Guidance on April 20, 1990 at 5pm, at the Indian Embassy auditorium. All Goan students from standard IX, X, XI are invited to attend along with their parents.

Professionals will speak on specialised topics such as engineering, architecture, interior design, computer science, hotel management, banking and medicine. For further information please contact Bras Silveira on tel. 4849006 or Rudolph Fernandes tel. 2438011.

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed
THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes. There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

PAC veterans' committee

Pakistan Arts Circle veterans are reorganising the PAC to revive its tradition of presenting colourful cultural programme for the benefit of the Pakistani community. The PAC veterans held a "Musical Night" last month which manifests the future aspirations of the PAC Veterans.

The organising committee, named to revamp the PAC and launch a membership campaign, has invited the Pakistani community to join the PAC. The committee includes: Abdul Sattar Qureshi (PAC founder member); Qazi Abdus Rauf (PAC Veteran); Abdul Sattar Ghazali (PAC Veteran); Sheikh Mahmood Ali Qidwai (PAC Veteran); Chaudhry Ahmad Khan (bank officer); Nasrullah Khan (business executive); and Zahid Butt (businessman).

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Entertainment City
Kuwait Entertainment City is running a free bus service from Kuwait City to the Entertainment city and back on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month of Ramadhan. The bus starts on both days from opposite the Meridian Hotel at 8.00 pm and returns back from the Entertainment City to the same stop at 12.00 midnight.

May Queen
Goan Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. For further details Tel: 4881387 or 5618971.

Kuwait Players
The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper in Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Kuwait Little Theatre — Ahmadi St George's Day Variety Show

The English have never been a nation to blow their own trumpet, not since the last Calcutta Cup at least.

Kuwait Little Theatre is taking over the role of English Herald with their St George's Day Variety Show to be staged in the Unity Centre in Ahmadi on Thursday 19, April at 7.30 pm. For those who don't know, the Unity Centre is situated opposite the rugby pitch on Mid 7th Street.

Coincidentally, April 23, the official St George's Day is also the birthday of another great Englishman, one William Shakespeare, late of Stratford-upon-Avon in the county of Warwickshire, and as such it is fitting that a theatre group should arrange the celebrations.

The St. George's Day Variety Show is directed by George Price, who despite being actively involved in theatre in Kuwait for over thirty years has not directed since the KLT production of Camelot in 1981.

He has put together an all singing, all dancing extravaganza ranging from Benjamin Britten to the Beatles, Shakespeare to Pantomime, and a good old Cockney knees up.

Among the artists who have volunteered their services are June Woolston, Phil Thomas, Paul Dillon and Patrick West from the Kuwait Folk Group, on the musical side and Mike MacGuinness, Robert Puddicombe and Jim Williams on the acting side. The show is more or less split equally between musical numbers and short sketches.

The standards set by the director are high, what else could you expect of a person who took KLT's production of South Pacific on tour to Lebanon in the late sixties, with Phil and June performing pop

and classical music with their usual professionalism and the Kuwait Folk Group, who are fast becoming the people to see in concert in Kuwait, have the spots in the show.

The sketches and readings included in the show have been chosen carefully to achieve as broad a cross section of English theatre culture as possible. Mike MacGuinness shows his versatility as an actor, appearing in the Shakespeare number and in comedy sketches.

Those of you who attended the St George's Day Review last year will remember Eric Shaw's brilliant funny rendition of Albert and the Lion. This year he will do Oh, You do look Queer.

A typically English night out would not be complete without a visit to the chip shop on the way home. Kuwait Little Theatre are going one better, they will serve you with fish and chips after the show, all inclusive in the ticket price.

Another great Englishman, Henry VIII, took 2,000 horses, 3,997 people, food, armoured and armoured, fabulous tent painted to look like a castle to France in 1520 for an away fixture tournament against Francis I of France. The logistics of such a move, the pale into insignificance to those required by the Kuwait Little Theatre who have to organise the moving of the set, the sound system and the stage lighting from the KLT to the very much bigger Unity Centre stage.

Naturally, the English have called upon the services of the Celts to make these arrangements. The stage crew predominate with Scots, Welsh, Irish and Australians? plus two token Englishmen. Tickets and table reservations can be booked by telephone 3919759 now.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Rolling vengeance
Al Sahiya
The Survivorist
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Dost
Fahad Open
Teezab
Fahad
Chithram
Al Jahra
North shore
Granada
The lost platoon
Salabikhat
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Imssak	3.51
Fajr	4.01 am
Zuhr	11.48
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghrib	6.14
Isha	7.34



Miss Goa 1990

An Indian girl based in Kuwait was recently chosen Miss Goa 1990 in Goa, India. Twenty-three-year old Susan, who sent her way into the hearts of fans in Kuwait at her successful East Meets West show last year, was in Goa on a private trip when her father encouraged her to take part in the contest at a Goa hotel. "I didn't expect to win," said Susan, who will now represent Goa at the Miss India 1990 contest, organised by the women's magazine Femina. Susan, who has been secretary in a private firm in Kuwait, is a former beauty queen and has taken her places and she has rejected several offers from Bollywood producers. For the sultry beauty, a home and family are more important.

Konkani Theatre

May 10-11: Goa's famous king of centuries, Rose Ferns and his 15-member troupe will present his new premier release Ximze at 7 pm (May 10) and again at 4 pm (May 11) and another drama Biman Tum which is nearing the century mark, at 10.30 am May 11 at Granada Cinema, Keitan. Sit in AC comfort with stereo-phonics and special light and sound effects. Plans open Sunday, April 15. Passes available at Raja Stores. Tel 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

Sri Lanka Embassy
The Embassy of Sri Lanka will remain closed on 14th Saturday and 15th Sunday April 1990, on the occasion of the National New Year Festival of Sri Lanka.

Tourist Restaurant
KNOWN for Indian Pakistani tandoori/curry dishes with seven types of bread. Ramadhan timings take away service 5 pm onward regular dine 6 pm to 1 pm. For further information contact. Tel. 2411702.

Daniella Dhow Trip
Daniella invites all Danes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

Saligaocars
CALLING all Saligaocars to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloa Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D' Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tony Cordeiro on Tel. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

HOTELS

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel
AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes. Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialities.

Ghaiba & Sohore: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohbore buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Kuwait Continental Hotel

Ramadan activities: Gardenia: Serves an Iftar Buffet Daily with Continental, Arabic and Indian delicacies. A la carte dinner and snacks also available. Darbar: Serving exquisite Indian Food from 7.30 pm until midnight.

Kuwait Plaza
SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic Iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, Ramadan drinks and a special buffet.

NOURA TERRACE: Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, Ramadan drinks, bubbly-bubble and trick track in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER: Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

Kuwait International Hotel
LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate Iftar buffet with traditional specialities of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Sohbore until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING: Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008/8000.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Sohbore from 12 pm to 3 am.

LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejss plays in the lobby diwanly after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices, plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

SPORTS
FILCHECK black and white nite

The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) will hold its "Black and White Nite" on Thursday, 12 April 1990 at 7.00 pm at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

As the name implies, all guests and participants are to come in black and white attire to celebrate the club's Triple Firsts Affair featuring 1) the induction of its first elected Board of Directors and Officers, 2) Awarding ceremony of the First Ramadan Chess Tournament and 3) but not the least, the first ever organised by the club.

Invitation for all members are now available at the club's headquarters. For details please contact Edward, or Sammy 2402405.

Messilah Beach Hotel Club
WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners and intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Energy consumption dips

Taiwan expected to cut oil, coal imports

TAIPEI, April 13, (Reuters): Hit by an industrial slowdown, Taiwan is expected to cut oil and coal imports this year and reduce its own production because of declining consumption, officials said today.

Taiwan imported 29.5 million tonnes of crude and fuel oil in 1989, up from 27 million tonnes in 1988, the energy committee said.

Oil imports are expected to fall to 28 million tonnes this year, committee

director Kao Jih-An said in an interview.

He said coal imports also dropped to 16.8 million tonnes from 17.5 million. Imports will further fall to 16.4 million tonnes this year.

Officials attributed the drop in both oil and coal imports to declining energy consumption by Taiwan's industry, including the manufacturing and ship-breaking sectors.

They said energy consumption by the

industrial sector accounted for almost 60 per cent in 1989 and is expected to drop to 58 per cent this year. In contrast, it represented more than 63 per cent in 1986.

Taiwan's industrial production growth dropped to 3.7 per cent in 1989 from 1988's 4.43 per cent and 13.9 per cent in 1986. The index is expected to fall further this year, officials said but did not give figures.

Many labour-intensive factories,

including footwear, toys and textiles, have closed or moved production overseas because of a labour shortage, anti-pollution protests and the appreciation of the Taiwan dollar in the past three years.

Taiwan's ship-repairing industry, once a big consumer of energy, has all but folded in the face of stiff competition from Mainland China and India, officials said.

Service industries such as banking,

insurance and stock brokerages are now using more energy but the increase will not make up the loss by the industrial sector, an official at the Bureau of Statistics said.

"The energy consumption by the service sector will continue to rise in the next few years. But it only accounted for about 25 per cent of the island's total consumption in 1989," he said.

Households accounted for 12 per cent and agriculture, three per cent.

Taiwan itself produces only 3,400 barrels of crude per day and four million cubic metres (5.2 million cubic yards) of natural gas.

But the gas reserves will be depleted in 10 years, said Lin Chung-Piaw, director of the ministry's mining department.

Taiwan's coal production will drop to 600,000 tonnes in 1990 from 784,000 tonnes in 1989 and 1.22 million in 1988, the Bureau of Mines said.

Saudi, Kuwait oil ministers to meet

Market, prices to be reviewed

BAGHDAD, April 13, (Agencies): The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq will meet in Riyadh in early May to discuss oil market and price developments, the official Iraqi news agency INA said yesterday.

It said the meeting would prepare for the regular Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) ministerial conference, due to be held in Geneva on May 25.

The agency said the meeting was part of regular consultations on oil matters between the three Arab countries.

International crude prices have slumped in the past week as the perception grew that world markets were awash with oil.

Soaring output by Opec was cited as the main reason for over-supplied markets.

Meanwhile, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed was quoted yesterday as saying Opec would act to halt the current slide in world oil prices.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will not stand with its hands tied towards what is presently happening in the oil market," the official Emirates news

agency Wam quoted him as saying. Wam, received in Cyprus, said Oteiba was referring to the sharp decline in oil prices.

Prices plunged nearly \$6 per barrel this year because the 13-member group produced about two million barrels per day (bpd) above its self-imposed ceiling of 22.086 million bpd.

"Opec has the means to restore balance to the petroleum market," he added.

The UAE, which has rejected as unfair its official Opec quota of 1.095 million bpd, is currently producing twice as much.

Several Opec officials and independent oil industry executives have blamed the Gulf Arab producer for being responsible for much of the present surplus that is driving prices down.

Authoritative Opec sources said several Opec ministers talked by telephone on Wednesday about action that might be taken to counter the slide in oil prices.

But the sources said that an emergency meeting was unlikely and that the goal was rather to see whether some key producers in the Gulf could cut output.

Oteiba did not say if he was involved in the talks and whether the UAE would take any individual action to prevent a further decline in prices, the agency reported.

In London, Opec's oil ministers are weighing various steps, including an urgent meeting, to halt the substantial drop in world oil prices, the organisation's acting president Sadik Bousseina said yesterday.

Analysts said they were skeptical the oil ministers would take effective steps against the unusually steep price drop, and predicted weak prices in the near-term.

"I think it's really all noise and very little action," said Geoff Pyne, an oil analyst with the London Investment firm UBS Phillips and Drew.

Said Nick Clayton, an analyst with Smith New Court Plc: "Crude prices are in for a rocky and turbulent time over the next few weeks."

Prices have fallen some \$3 a barrel in recent weeks, more sharply than usual during the traditional slump between winter and summer.

Analysts blame the price drop on overproduction by some Opec members.

Acting Opec president said he had been conducting "intensive consulta-

tions" with his fellow ministers about the price slide.

The options under consideration included an urgent meeting of the eight-member ministerial monitoring committee and an extraordinary meeting of all 13 members, he said.

The acting president, who also serves as Algeria's oil minister, made the comments in an official statement released yesterday by Opec's Vienna secretariat. The statement was made available in London.

Opec's 13 oil ministers have a regular full meeting scheduled for May 25 to set their output and price for the second half of the year.

Clayton predicted oil ministers would gather in early May. But Pyne said the ministers won't meet before May 25 unless prices fall even further.

Opec's monitoring committee studies oil market conditions and makes policy recommendations to the full Opec conference, while it formally has only the eight members, its sessions tend to be attended by all Opec ministers.

Bousseina's statement is "a recognition that there are difficulties in the oil market," Clayton said.

American banks see lending risk in E. Europe

WASHINGTON, April 13, (UPI): US banks now perceive increased risks in lending to the countries of Eastern Europe and will resist being used by Western governments to implement a public policy agenda in the region, bankers said yesterday.

Paul McGonagle, senior vice-president at the First National Bank of Chicago, told the US Chamber of Commerce's "symposium on doing business in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union" that Eastern Europe's creditworthiness has deteriorated and the area's political and economic liberalisation could "exacerbate" current social tensions.

In contrast, officials from multilateral organisations and the US government told the symposium that the Eastern European countries will receive massive international public financial help and technical assistance and will see liberalised the rules that until now prohibited western exports of sensitive technologies to communist nations.

US private banks see a danger that Eastern Europe's political liberalisation, and economic reform might be reversed and a great deal of "variance" in the possible results of such efforts, thus producing a perception of increased lending risk, McGonagle said.

As a consequence, lending to heavily indebted East European governments in support of balance of payments will be limited, and US banks will favour to participate in equity investments, joint ventures, trade financing and customer-based operations, the banker said.

Stocks drop

Dollar firm

TOKYO, April 13, (Reuters): Position adjustments ahead of the weekend saw Tokyo stocks ended lower but well off mid-afternoon lows today, while the US dollar ended higher in quiet, lacklustre trading, dealers said.

"The (stock) market fell sharply recently so it's naturally adjusting and consolidating," said Kazuma Kitai, director of Japanese equities at county Natwest Securities Japan.

The key 225-share Nikkei index dropped 409.28 points or 1.38 per cent to 29,213.29. It gained 182.92 yesterday.

The US dollar finished at 158.42 yen and 1.6712/22 West German marks after closing at 158.15/25 and 1.6710/20 in New York yesterday.

European, Australian, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore markets are closed on Good Friday.

Most of these foreign exchange markets will also be closed for the Easter Monday holiday. With no big corporate and interbank orders, the US dollar moved narrowly in an extremely thin market, dealers said.

Sparse stock turnover exaggerated the effects of the selling, brokers said. Volume was only 320 million shares after 430 million yesterday.

"There were so few players in the market anyway, it was so quiet," said one foreign broker. "It was more a lack of buyers rather than a flurry of sellers."

Analysis have few hopes the market will climb out of its narrow trading box next week or even in several weeks.

However, many said shares had hit their near-term bottom last Thursday when the Nikkei dipped at one point to 27,251.

George Nimmo, manager of equity sales at Sbc Securities (Asia), said that until the yen shows signs of a convincing recovery, the Nikkei index should remain glued to a range of 28,000 to 30,000 points.

"We need a stronger yen," Nimmo said, "but the sentiment is against the yen."

But many currency dealers see the US dollar continuing to have a strong bias against the Japanese yen next week. They forecast the US dollar in ranges of 155.50-160.50 yen and 1.6500-1.6850 marks.

Market doubts over the strength of Group of Seven political coordination is seen weighing on the ailing Japanese currency.

This negative sentiment was reinforced after a local newspaper reported yesterday that joint intervention in Europe was on behalf of the Bank of Japan.

Both the Australian and Hong Kong stock Markets were closed for the Good Friday holiday.

Oil prices plunge

Saudis keep world guessing

LONDON, April 13, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia kept the world guessing yesterday about where it would like to halt a dramatic slide in oil prices.

Several Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) ministers conferred by telephone about what action might be taken to counter the slide, authoritative Opec sources said.

They said the goal was not so much to try to arrange an emergency meeting, which they said could be counterproductive, but to see whether some key producers would cut output towards agreed quotas.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, however, was visiting Egypt. Market analysts said Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, might hold the key to the direction of prices.

Under pressure of Opec over-supply, prices for North Sea Brent blend crude oil for immediate loading — a world-wide pricing benchmark — dropped some \$1.50 on Wednesday to \$15.05 per barrel.

This would be a drop in a week of almost \$3. Would-be sellers said talk of some action to curb supply by Opec, even if it was only rumour, inspired caution.

Western oil company executives say these two key producers are each pumping between 300,000 and half a million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil above their Opec-mandated quotas.

For most of Opec, according to delegation sources, the critical issue is where Saudi Arabia and to a lesser degree Kuwait want the drop in prices, now at the lowest level since early 1989, to bottom out.

Both countries belong in an Opec camp that favours keeping a lid on energy costs to try to stimulate an underlying rebound in demand from the glut of the 1980s.

Highly-placed Gulf oil sources also doubted whether there would be an emergency Opec meeting before talks already scheduled for May 25 in Geneva.

Gulf states were more likely to take individual action "if prices go too low," rather than call a full meeting.

This still begged the question of how low the Gulf producers would let prices sink.

Market analysts have been saying for some time that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd must soon declare where he wants the oil price to go.

Western oil industry executives suggest the slump in prices is a temporary phenomenon rather than a crash of the sort that took Brent blend down below \$10 in 1986.

They see demand for Opec crudes recovering towards the end of this year to about 23.5 million barrels per day — about where Opec production is now.

The Saudis may therefore be tempted to ride out the present oil market storm, provided prices do not slide out of control.

The most jittery of the oil markets, the New York Mercantile Exchange, switched back up and down on Wednesday in a range of more than \$2 per barrel for the May futures contract — an indication of how Opec and particularly the Saudis have got the oil traders guessing.

Nazer dismisses the fears that the Saudis will use the world's most valuable traded commodity, de-linked from speculative trading. For that reason, Opec delegation sources said, Riyadh may take time before it shows its hand.

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Debt cheers officials more than bankers

PARIS, April 13, (Reuters): France welcomed a new debt rescheduling agreement for Morocco, but bankers expressed doubts that it would lead as quickly as Paris hopes to a reduction in the country's \$21 billion foreign debt.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, who pushed hard for a deal for France's former colony, welcomed the deal as an encouraging evolution in bankers' attitudes and said it would provide Morocco with significant financial aid.

The two-stage deal provides for the immediate rescheduling of \$3.2 billion of pre-1983 debt, to be followed later by debt reduction financed by official funds.

But bankers were quick to note that before Morocco qualifies for the second debt-reduction stage along the lines of the plan launched in March 1989 by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady it must first agree terms with the International Monetary Fund on a medium-term extended fund facility (EFF) loan.

Some bankers, in the light of Morocco's difficulties in meeting targets of earlier IMF programmes, said this might not be easy. "We would regard with caution the prospect of an extended fund facility being on Morocco's doorstep," a senior official at a major British commercial bank said.

An economist at a British bank said Morocco missed key targets set under a 16-month IMF standby loan that expired in December. For instance, the budget deficit slipped to an estimated 4.8 per cent of GDP last year from 4.1 per cent in 1988 instead of shrinking to the IMF's target of 3.5 per cent, he said.

The trade deficit is thought to have doubled to \$1.5 billion from 750 million, while inflation is estimated to have accelerated to six per cent from 2.3 per cent, the economist said.

He attributed the deterioration to a poor grain harvest, dearer oil, slower tourism growth, rising interest rates and the loss of a \$400 million phosphoric acid contract with India.

Because an EFF would have required deeper reforms, Morocco has opted to negotiate a renewal of the standby loan, which it hopes will form the basis for an EFF later on, perhaps in 1991, bankers said.

Moroccan officials could not be reached for comment. "We consider this the best compromise realistic under prevailing circumstances," said a spokesman for BNP, which co-chaired the Moroccan bank steering committee with Citibank.

"The main danger we are facing here," he said. Instead, he said economists are looking at an approach closer in Yugoslavia's based on control of wages.

That approach has cut the rate of inflation drastically in Yugoslavia this year, he said. "Prices are beginning to stabilise in Yugoslavia. We are studying the Yugoslav option," he said.

Asked whether Ryzhkov's government agrees on the need to return the majority of the economy to private hands, Bunich said government ministers have "some exact formulas, but some of them are so porous that it's just impossible to tell whether the government agrees or not."

After Ryzhkov's government makes its proposals to Gorbachev this weekend, he is likely to address the Supreme Soviet legislature at the end of the month with a final blueprint of economic reform that will require new laws from the Supreme Soviet and directives from the Council of Ministers.

It also would cut drastically into the work of government ministries and the agencies that handle economic planning, pricing and supply, he said.

Bunich told reporters that he did not favour a Polish-style "shock therapy" approach to economic reform, including a sudden freeing of prices, devaluation of the currency and rapid increases in unemployment.

Public opposition and danger of social upheavals

reform will complain loudly at the Supreme Soviet. But he said the reforms are likely to be approved, permitting them to go into effect in 1991.

"If we are talking about denationalisation, about 70 per cent of the public sector will cease to exist," Bunich said. "There are many people who want to buy shops, workshops and small enterprises."

Such a shift would mean not only putting business in private hands, but freeing up prices of goods produced and sold by the private sector, Bunich said.

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BUSINESS

Bank profit surges

BAHRAIN, April 13, (Reuters): Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK), Bahrain's largest commercial bank, said its net profit surged five-fold to five million dinars (\$13 million) in calendar 1989.

BBK said in a statement operating income jumped 33 per cent to 12.2 million dinars (\$32.4 million) while expenses moved seven per cent higher to 9.5 million dinars (\$25 million).

Provisions against doubtful loans were cut to seven million dinars (\$18.6 million) from eight million (\$21.3 million) in 1988. Assets fell 10 per cent to 687.6 million dinars (\$1.83 billion) while loans declined four per cent to 328.4 million dinars (\$873 million).

BBK — owned by institutional and private shareholders in Bahrain and Kuwait — was given a waiver by the central banks of both countries on provisions for 1986 and set aside 29.2 million dinars (\$77 million) against loans for 1987.

New trade group proposed

GENEVA, April 13, (AP): A Canadian trade official yesterday proposed a new world trade organisation with more powers to settle disputes.

John Crosbie said he presented the proposal to Arthur Dunkel, director general of the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which currently draws up international trade agreements and rules on disputes.

The proposal will be discussed at a meeting of trade ministers in Mexico next week, said a statement by the Canadian mission to GATT.

Critics of GATT, which is technically a contractual agreement, have often cited its inability to enforce its judgements in trade disagreements or prevent unilateral decisions and bilateral deals. The Canadian proposal seeks to address that issue.

"Countries will increasingly resort to unilateral action unless there is a strong, multilateral method for resolving trade disputes," Crosbie said.

UK inflation rate jumps

LONDON, April 13, (AP): Britain's annual inflation rate jumped to 8.1 per cent in March from 7.5 per cent in February, largely because of increases in mortgage rates, the government said yesterday.

The expected increase brought the rate to its highest level since July, when it stood at 8.2 per cent.

Britain's unemployment rate held steady at 5.6 per cent in March, the government also reported.

Britain's inflation rate, the worst among the major industrialised nations, is expected to move up to 9 per cent before falling back again.

Curbing resurgent inflation is Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's No. 1 economic priority, and 15 per cent interest rates are her weapon.

The Department of Employment said its retail price index rose 1 per cent in March from the previous month, putting it at 8.1 per cent higher than in March 1989.

The department said its index, which uses a January 1987 base of 100, stood at 121.4 in March, 120.2 in February, and 121.3 in March 1989.

The department said it expects a further sharp increase in inflation in April.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has said that a new per-capita tax called the community charge, introduced this month, will boost the inflation rate.

Free trade zone planned

ANKARA, April 13, (Reuters): Turkey will establish its sixth free trade zone at Istanbul's Ataturk airport, the official gazette said yesterday.

"The first part of the zone, where about 20 companies are to be established, will be completed in June," a State Planning Organisation (SPO) official told Reuters.

About 800 foreign and domestic companies have already applied to operate in the Istanbul free trade zone, she said.

Income originating from trade in the zones is exempt from all taxes and duties.

Local banks' assets growing, says CBK study

THE aggregate balance sheet of local banks (commercial and specialised) in January 1990 grew by KD 105 million (0.8 per cent) over the previous month and KD985 million (8 per cent) over the corresponding month in 1989 to reach KD13,268 million.

This growth included an increase of KD82 million and KD60 million in local assets and liabilities respectively. The net foreign assets declined by KD22 million because the increase (KD45 million) in foreign liabilities exceeded the increase (KD23 million) in foreign assets, according to Kuwait Central Bank's monthly Monetary

review.

The month of January 1990 witnessed an increase in the Central Bank operations with local banks when its KD balance as a net lender to these banks increased by KD35 million (11.4 per cent) over the previous month, resulting from an increase of KD20 million in its claims on banks of both discount operations and swap operations and a decline of KD15 million in banks' balances with the Central Bank.

On the level of public debt instruments, the Central Bank of Kuwait offered in January 1990 eight issues of treasury bills (from issue No.85 to issue

No. 92), totalling KD595 million.

Meanwhile, five previous issues of these bills (from issue No.72 to issue No. 76), totalling KD491.2 million matured in the same month, raising the outstanding balance of these bills to KD1920 million, an increase of KD103.8 million (5.7 per cent) over the previous month. Also, it is noteworthy to mention the Central Bank activity in the market through open market operations, the total of which (buying and selling treasury bills by the Central Bank) reached KD194 million, an increase of KD39 million (25.2 per

cent) over the previous month.

On the other hand, since no new issues of treasury bonds were offered and no previous issues matured in January 1990, the outstanding balance of these bonds maintained its level (KD370 million) of the previous month. Thus, the outstanding balance of public debt instruments (treasury bills and bonds) increased by 4.7 per cent over the previous month, reaching KD2290 million.

As for interest rates in the money market, interest rates on interlocal bank KD deposits increased slightly in

January 1990 on all deposit maturities at rates ranging between 0.80 per cent (from 0.82 per cent to 0.84 per cent) on one-year deposits and 0.11 per cent (from 0.42 per cent to 0.43 per cent) on one-month deposits. Meanwhile, they reached 0.19 per cent (from 0.41 per cent to 0.42 per cent) on three-month deposits.

Among the most important developments witnessed by the KD exchange rate during January 1990 was that improvement (1.18 per cent) recorded against the U.S. dollar because the U.S. dollar exchange rate ranged between

290.33 fils and 293.03 fils, an average of 291.65 fils.

The KD also improved by 1.93 per cent against the Japanese yen. Conversely, the KD declined against other major currencies at rates ranging between 2.33 per cent against the French franc and 1.47 per cent against the Italian lira.

Despite this decline, the KD performance was more stable than that of the U.S. dollar against major currencies due to its decline against them at rates far less than the rates of decline of the U.S. dollar against the same currencies.

Aramco's expansion plans likely to gain momentum

Joint venture banks foresee more loans

BAHRAIN, April 13, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's joint venture banks, buoyed by their strongest performance in five years, foresee more growth in their loan portfolios provided oil prices do not fall too far in 1990.

Bankers saw a huge influx of funds spawned by higher oil prices and interest rates in 1989 fuelled a dramatic rise in profits for most of the kingdom's nine joint ventures.

Many banks were also able to cut loan loss provisions which previously devoured large portions of their income and to step up lending as the kingdom's economy gathered momentum.

"Generally it's an upbeat economy," Mehdi Mistri, managing director of the country's largest joint venture, Saudi American Bank (Samba), told Reuters.

"The size of the pie is steadily growing and the drain on resources by loan loss provisions is

much smaller," he said.

Samba, owned 40 per cent by Citibank, saw its net profit surge 79 per cent to a record 422 million riyals (\$112 million) in 1989. Its profit rose 34.5 per cent in first quarter 1990.

Bankers said a tide of government payments to contractors — many long overdue — which began late last year had boosted liquidity in the banking system.

Official figures show deposits in the kingdom's 12 commercial banks grew 5.9 per cent to 142.8 billion riyals (\$38 billion) in the year to February 1990.

But bankers said they believed the market share of the joint ventures had risen sharply. Three of the seven who have reported 1989 results so far have had record net profits.

A 3.4 per cent rise in the volume of "cheap" or non-interest bearing funds to 66.2 billion riyals (\$17.6 billion) also

improved the banks' performance.

Many customers in Saudi Arabia put their money in current accounts because of Islamic religious strictures against interest. The banks lend the funds on interest in the inter-bank market.

"There has been a general increase in operating profit across the board — deposits have grown and loans have picked up thanks to an upturn in industry," Aman Mehta, managing director of Saudi British Bank, told Reuters.

"Most banks are comfortable with the level of loan loss provisions they have now... there is a feeling in varying degrees they have broken the back of the problem," he said.

Bankers said after years of grappling with private sector loans hit by the mid 1980s recession, most of the joint ventures

had provided against more than 60 per cent of the doubtful debt.

Saudi British returned to the black in 1989 with a 123 million riyal (\$33 million) net profit. It recorded a 239 million riyal (\$64 million) loss in 1988 after setting aside provisions of 300 million riyals (\$80 million).

Mistri said expansion plans by the state oil firm Saudi Aramco was expected to gain momentum in the next few years, providing more lending opportunities for Saudi banks.

Firms would increasingly be expected to provide their own finance as the government gradually reduced its role.

Saudi Aramco plans to spend up to \$20 billion over the next 10 years to gradually expand its crude output capacity to around 10 million barrels per day from 6.5 million now — provided world demand continues to grow and crude prices hold.

Bush income nearing \$half m

WASHINGTON, April 13, (AP): President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, reported \$208.274 last year from business holdings kept in a blind trust and paid total federal income taxes of \$101,382, according to a copy of the first family's tax return released Thursday.

The Bushes reported a total gross adjusted income of \$456,780 for the year, which includes the income from the blind trust and Bush's government salary of \$189,167.

The job of president pays \$200,000 a year, but Bush was only President for just over 11 months and Vice President for 20 days in 1989.

The joint tax return filed by the President and his wife listed \$94,702 in itemized charitable contributions.

Among the contributions were \$3,000 in cash for relief organisations to help victims of hurricane Hugo in the Virgin Islands and another \$1,500 for similar efforts in the aftermath of the San Francisco-area earthquake.

Bush also reported profits of \$14,282 in 1989 on his campaign biography, "Looking Forward." He divided all the proceeds between two charities: The United Negro College Fund in New York and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre of Houston, Texas.

The Bushes paid taxes equivalent to 22.2 per cent of their total income.

In addition to his rise in salary in going from the job of vice president to the presidency, the blind trust Bush set up in 1981 when he became Vice President showed a profitable year. The blind trust is an arrangement whereby the trustee is authorised to handle Bush's funds without informing him where or how his money is being invested.

The \$208.274 in interest and dividend earnings through partnerships and other ventures, masked by the blind trust, was up from \$155,662 reported in the previous year.

Meanwhile, Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife, Marilyn, reported that they paid total taxes of \$25,479 on adjusted gross income of \$133,696.

GATT chief warns

Deadline must be met

GENEVA, April 13, (Reuters): The head of the GATT world trade forum warned yesterday that the Uruguay round of talks to liberalise international commerce could run into trouble unless negotiators worked hard to resolve key issues.

The 105-nation talks, named after the country where they were launched in 1986, are due to wind up at the end of the year but negotiators have until the end of July to draw up an outline accord.

"If in July we do not have a profile of the (agreement) package, then I would say we are getting into trouble," GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel told a news conference in an assessment of progress so far this year in the talks.

Cutting farm trade reform and trade in textiles as particularly tough issues, Dunkel said: "There is no room for satisfaction, but there is also no room for pessimism."

"Negotiating groups are now being asked to work very hard," he said. "In negotiations you reach convergence after a tough process. Convergence has to be achieved in July."

Negotiators have been asked to produce outlines for a final package of agreements intended to set future patterns for 15 sectors of international commerce, including areas previously uncovered by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Drastic anti-inflation plan

Collor wins approval

BRASILIA, April 13, (Reuters): President Fernando Collor de Mello won congressional approval early on Thursday for his drastic anti-inflation plan which freezes most of Brazil's liquidity for 18 months.

"I am extremely satisfied with the result of the session in Congress," said Collor, who took office on March 15. The next day he unveiled one of the most severe monetary reforms the world has ever seen to fight an inflation rate of nearly 5,000 per cent.

Political analysts hailed the congressional approval as a major political victory for Collor, whose tiny party of National Reconstruction (PRN) holds only about five per cent of the seats in the 570-member congress.

But they added that Collor faces severe challenges since his plan has dramatically slowed the economy. In Sao Paulo, Brazil's economic capital, the important motor industry has been paralysed — no one has money to buy an expensive item like a car. Other industries have also been hit.

On Thursday morning Congress approved the heart of Collor's anti-inflation plan — strict limits on withdrawals from bank accounts which in the short-term have practically turned millionaires into paupers.

It approved measure 168, which rules that Brazilians cannot take more than 50,000 cruzeiros, a little more than \$1,000, from bank and savings accounts over the next 18 months. They can take 25,000 cruzeiros, or 20 per cent of the total, whichever is the greater, from money market accounts. The rules do not apply to money deposited since March 16.

From September 1991 Brazilians will be allowed to draw their money out in 12 monthly instalments. Some wonder whether they will ever see their money again, despite solemn government assurances.

In the government camp, there was jubilation at the victory in Congress.

"This is an historic day for the national Congress," said Renan Calheiros, leader of the government in the chamber of deputies.

IMF team for Egypt

CAIRO, April 13, (Reuters): An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team was due to begin a fact-finding mission to Cairo this weekend aimed at preparing the ground for further talks on economic reform.

Economic sources said the team of technical experts would reassess Egypt's economic performance rather than negotiate reforms. No date has been set for a visit by a negotiating team.

Egypt, burdened with a foreign debt of some \$50 billion, has been holding talks with the IMF and the World Bank for almost two years on broad economic reforms.

A green light from the two institutions would allow Egypt to reschedule some of its foreign debt, and it hopes, attract fresh foreign aid and investment.

But Egypt, wary of accepting Western-prescribed medicine for its state-dominated economy and unwilling to risk social unrest, has resisted pressure for drastic economic changes.

Economic sources said that as the IMF talks dragged on, a new fact-finding mission was needed this month to reassess data already gathered as a basis for previous negotiations.

The IMF is pushing Egypt to raise interest rates, devalue the Egyptian pound and curb its

budget deficit.

Egypt went a long way to meeting one of these demands last year by announcing a cut in its budget deficit at the beginning of the financial year last July.

By late summer, both Egyptian and IMF officials were optimistic that an agreement was within sight. But prospects of a quick deal receded as both sides failed to agree on interest and exchange rates.

With Egypt preparing to announce a new budget for the year beginning July, it has to convince the IMF that it is serious about curbing government spending.

However, analysts say they are optimistic that an agreement can be reached this year as Egypt comes under increasingly heavy pressure from foreign creditors demanding repayment of outstanding debt.

There has been considerable progress in parallel talks with the World Bank, which have focused on reforming the public sector and improving agricultural production.

Egypt announced at the beginning of this month that it was setting up a special committee to study selling off parts of the public sector — a key World Bank demand.

Japan no longer willing, able to act as banker to the world

TOKYO, April 13, (Reuters): The well of Japanese cash which has bankrolled the world's borrowing spree may be running dry, threatening to end the good times of cheap money from Tokyo.

Economists say that the weak yen and shaky Tokyo stock market are ushering in a shift in Japanese money policy that could squeeze liquid funds and boost borrowing costs for the United States and other debtor nations.

"Japan's days as the world's banker are over," says Kenneth Couris, economist at Deutsche Bank group on Tokyo. "Japan will not be the lender of last resort."

Japanese institutional investors have bought around one-third of US government debt sold at treasury bond auctions in recent years, bond sales managers said.

If that share were to be cut in half, as some economists believe could happen, the price of US government borrowing could climb by three-fourths of a per cent.

Indeed, Japanese appetite for treasury debt has partially enabled the United States to claim title to being the world's biggest debtor, running in the red by what should be more than \$3

trillion by late 1990.

"The Japanese have been there to ensure that US debt can be sold at a reasonable price," said Couris.

Nearly 75 per cent of Japan's net capital outflow between 1987 and 1989 went to the United States, constituting more than half that nation's borrowing from abroad.

"We're taking a second look at US bonds as they have lost some of their attractiveness," said an investment manager at one of the Japanese life insurance companies, which are major buyers of overseas bonds.

Japan earned a reputation as the world's banker after the 1985 Plaza accord, when high money supply growth and artificially low interest rates provided an almost unlimited pool of cheap funds for investment.

The combination sent Tokyo stock exchange share prices soaring, giving Japanese companies an easy way to raise funds for investment in securities, not just in their own companies.

But with interest rates creeping higher throughout Europe, especially in West Germany, Japan has been forced to reverse its easy money policy.

The Bank of Japan has raised the official discount rate four times since the spring of 1989 to the current 5.25 per cent from a mere 2.50 per cent, but with only small success in slowing the yen's decline.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank has pressured banks to reduce the amount they lend in an effort to slow money supply growth.

The tighter stance will slow Japan's capital outflow first by shrinking the amount available for investment and second, by narrowing international interest rate differentials, analysts said.

Economists estimate the clampdown could cut Japan's long-term capital flows by 30 to 40 per cent over the next few years, and the shift is already under way.

"The pool of money that Japanese institutional investors have to invest with is going to be smaller," says Hidehiro Iwaki, economist at Nomura Research Institute Ltd.

Along with less money to ship overseas, higher domestic interest rates are making Japan's markets more attractive.

The yield on a 10-year government bond has

climbed to around 7.25 per cent compared to 5.58 per cent on the benchmark US 30-year treasury bond.

The narrower yield gap is already having impact on foreign bond purchases by institutional investors.

For example, Japan's 15 investment trust firms sold a net 407.78 billion yen of foreign bonds in March after 307.78 billion yen in net sales in February, a spokesman for the investment trust association of Japan said.

Officials at life insurance firms also said that total assets of their companies should grow at a slower pace this year, giving them less money for overseas investment.

Deutsche Bank's Couris warns that US funding prospects are only going to get worse.

Capital could become even scarcer this year as the second biggest foreign investor in government debt, West Germany, may begin to keep more capital at home to assist unification.

Although the lack of US interest rates, as many other factors play a part, Washington must halt its spendthrift policies as it finds fewer customers for its debt, analysts said.

Jobless rate likely to remain high

French economic policies on track

PARIS, April 13, (Reuters): France, reaping the benefits of a tough anti-inflation policy, looks set for the first time in two decades to achieve faster growth and lower price rises than the average among its Western partners, the OECD said yesterday.

Although the annual report on the French economy by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development cautioned that unemployment was likely to remain high, its main message was that France should stick to current policies.

In 1990 the French economy could... outperform the average of other countries in the OECD on both the inflation and growth fronts for the first time since 1970, while the current-account deficit should remain modest, the OECD, an economic forum of 24 industrial nations, said.

While the favourable outlook was partly due to propitious external factors, such as declining oil prices, the OECD said France was benefiting substantially from the coherent set of policies pursued by successive governments since 1983.

The cornerstone of France's economic strategy has been to keep the franc strong in order to reduce inflation and compete more keenly with big trading rivals, especially West Germany.

The policy has shown results: progress in reducing inflation has been remarkable, the OECD said.

In a further vote of confidence, it said France's monetary policies now enjoyed substantial credibility and said the short-term outlook was positive.

Growth after adjustment for inflation was likely to be about three per cent in 1990. Although this would be slower than the 3.7 per cent recorded in 1989, the slowdown should be less marked than elsewhere in the OECD. Inflation, 3.6 per cent last year, should slow to 2.9 per cent in 1990.

The report said France's concern about its trade deficit, especially in manufactured goods, was perhaps excessive.

The industrial-trade gap has widened in the past five years and French companies have failed to make serious inroads into markets where they had previously lost market share.

World Bank loan for Dhaka

DHAKA, April 13, (Reuters): Food-starved Bangladesh is expecting \$275 million from the World Bank soon to salvage its poor economy, hit by falling foreign-exchange reserves and other problems.

Finance Ministry officials said today a Bangladesh bank, which returned home last week from Washington, "successfully negotiated with the World Bank officials for a \$175 million financial sector adjustment loan."

"Actually Bangladesh sought \$250 million for the financial sector," one official told Reuters.

He said the World Bank also promised another \$100 million loan for the energy sector at a meeting with Bangladesh officials last month.

Both the credit proposals will be placed before the board of directors meeting of the International Development Association, an affiliate of the Bank, later this month or in May for approval.

Before that Bangladesh has to fulfil several World Bank conditions including amendments to existing industrial policy and establishment of a loan recovery court, they said.

The money is part of \$330 million set aside for Bangladesh earlier but held up by the World Bank until certain conditions were met.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)				Hero Honda			
April 13, 1990				17			
	Pr. Close	Open	Close		17	17	17
ACC	432	420	415	Hero Honda	1240	1210	1210
Alom Chem	—	—	—	Hero Honda	113	111.50	110
Alw Nis	—	—	—	Hero Honda	152.50	150	148.75
Ari Fab	—	—	—	Hero Honda	26	26	26
Ashtek Ley	80	80	79.50	Hero Honda	270	260	260
Asia Paint	226.25	220	225	Hero Honda	1770	1710	1660
Atlas Cop	34	33	33	Hero Honda	222.50	215	220
Auto Corp	63.75	61.25	63.75	Hero Honda	62	60	61
Nat Index	417.34	406.08	408	Hero Honda	49.50	48	47
Bajaj Auto	427.50	415	420	Hero Honda	103	101	100.50
Bar Rayon	852.50	840	825	Hero Honda	205	197.50	195
Blow Plast	—	—	—	Hero Honda	58	54	54.50
Bom Oyl	204.50	197	193.50	Hero Honda	147.75	137.50	137.50
BK Bond	114	111.25	110	Hero Honda	80	76	75.50
BK Bye	80	70	75	Hero Honda	92	87	85
Burnt Woot	—	—	—	Hero Honda	92	90	89.50
Cashmere	—	—	—	Hero Honda	110	102.50	107.50
Cen Enka	3350	3275	3225	Hero Honda	112.50	107.50	112.50
Cen Spig	3130	3050	3000	Hero Honda	60.25	58.50	57.50
Colgate	215	211.25	207.50	Hero Honda	178.5	170.5	172.5
Crompti Gr	920	—	—	Hero Honda	179.5	170.5	172.5
DCM	20	—	—	Hero Honda	855	840	815
Deep Fert	20	28.50	27	Hero Honda	190	180	185
Dunlop	57	53	55	Hero Honda	50	46	40
Eli Hotels	62.50	60	62.50	Hero Honda	207	195	190
Escorts	87	86.50	86	Hero Honda	133	131	127
BSE Index	781.17	748.79	750	Hero Honda	1260	1230	1218
Eskayef	130	130	125	Hero Honda	—	—	—
Estar Spig	35	34	34	Hero Honda	43.50	41	40
Food Spig	116	118.75	118.75	Hero Honda	15.75	15	14.25
Gar	48	50	48	Hero Honda	—	—	—
Go Poly	35.50	34	33.50	Hero Honda	43	40	41
GNDP	98	95.50	97.50	Hero Honda	75.50	72.50	73.75
GNFC	39.50	37.50	38	Hero Honda	216.25	205	212.50
Grasim	123.75	118	117	Hero Honda	60.25	58.50	57.50
GE Shpg	51	48.50	49	Hero Honda	87.50	84	83
GEFC	172	171.25	170	Hero Honda	90	87.50	86
Guj Alco	83	79	81	Hero Honda	80	80	80
Guj Heavy	16.50	15	15	Hero Honda	—	—	—
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On the record

**By Shaun Seekins**

The above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Salmiyah, Tel 5724372; Salmiah Complex, Kuwait City, Safeway Shopping Complex, Farwanivah and Fintas Towers.

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

1. You can prepare your own solution by following this recipe: 1/2 teaspoon baking soda; 3/4 teaspoon salt substitute (potassium chloride); 1/2 teaspoon baking powder; 1/2 cup water; 3/4 teaspoon white corn syrup (Karo syrup); one packet of unsweetened fruit juice. Mix thoroughly. Drink 1/2 cup of this solution every 15 minutes. This will provide the electrolyte requirements in the right concentration. The recommended amount is about two quarts of liquid a day or up to three quarts if fever and sweating are present.

Compares 2 U she quietly mourns a lover who has left, almost pleading, almost

These are indeed ballads, but the distinctive gritty tone and Rollins' energy carries them into another dimension. He is joined by a superb tenor as Ray from Muz-

Country
Dan Seals, *Love on Arrival* (Capitol
91782)
Dan Seals seems to be reaching a new

The thing to remember about Prokofiev is that he was more dissonant when

No problems with the performance or engineering quality. But these works are



Tourism makes a comeback to Sri Lanka

Travel

ment by government-sanctioned vigilante groups, fought to crush the JVP in much of the rest

officials realize all too well that the upward trend is linked directly to lasting peace.

By Claire Lockhart

usiasm for this martial art has her dad completely floored!

who is 11, got involved. And then our eight-year-old daughter Charlene and Zoe started.

"It is classed as a gentle martial

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



Little Zoe Jones (middle) plays
Vic

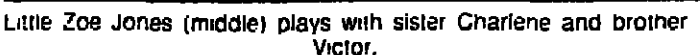


Charlene, brother Victor and mum
ey.

very early taking her red belt so we'll keep her practising and see how she gets on. But we won't push her because she is too young and has years ahead of her."

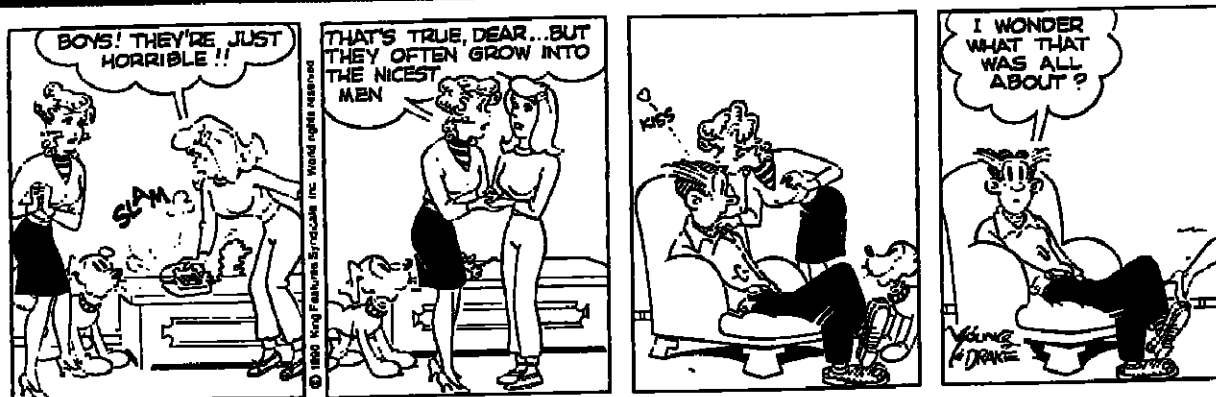
But little Zoe loves every minute of it and even joins her dad, who is a black belt, in some kick-boxing.

themselves. I would encourage anyone to do it."

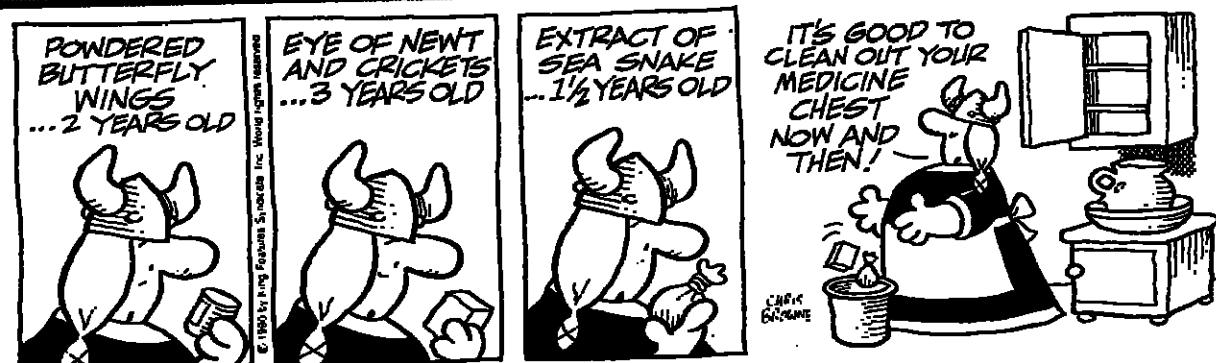


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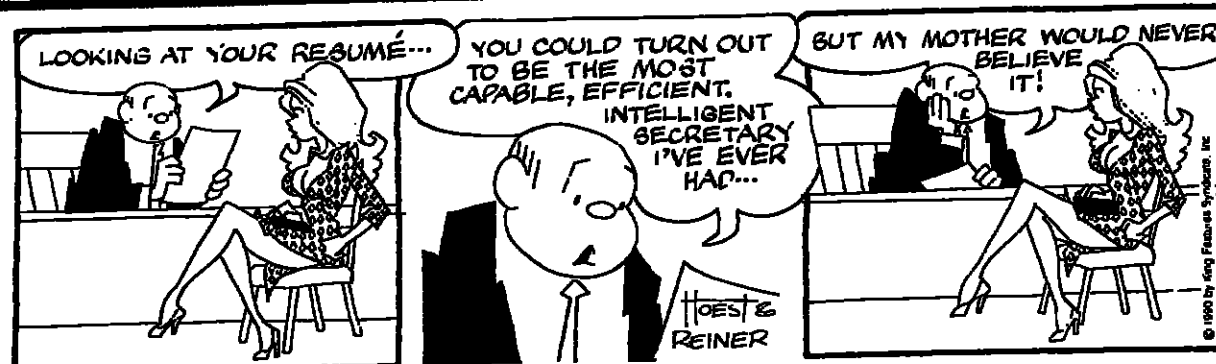
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drak



HACAB THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUMM — 3, Bl. Hoes



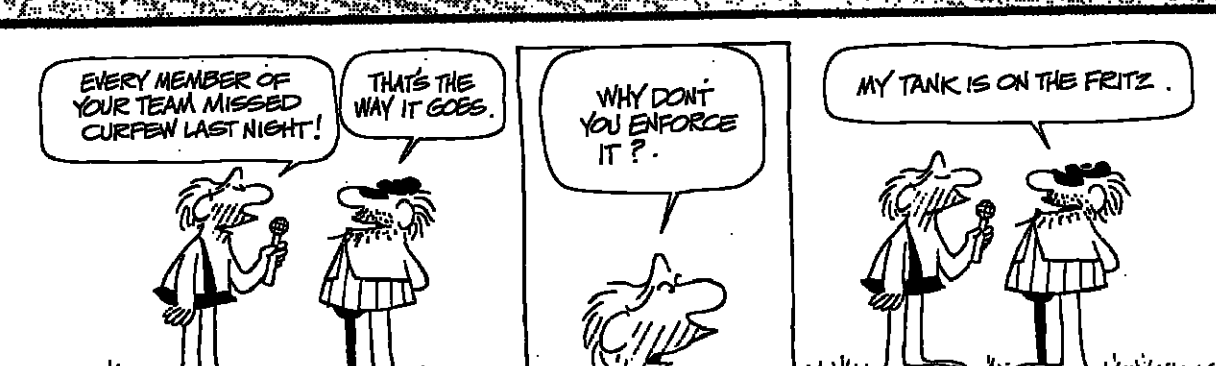
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Ha



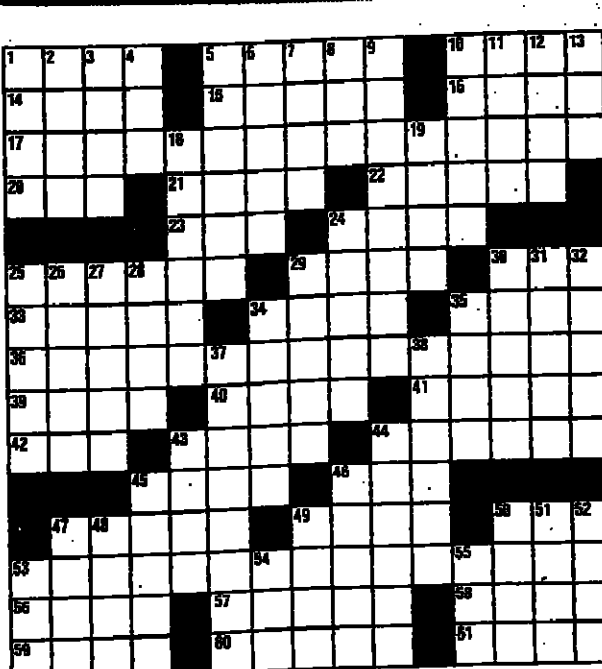




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ACROSS	59 Pin-bad no-no	1894
1 Melville's whale hunter	60 Makes do	28 Stets of tools
5 Brazil port	61 Newcastle's nvar	29 Flintlike rock
10 Collar or cap		30 Canoe's island
14 Aria, often	DOWN	31 Alda and Shepherd
15 Shakespearean sprite	1 Italian wine center	32 Coup —
16 Part of the neck	2 Bay	34 Sessist
17 87,120 sq. ft. of mother-of-pearl?	3 Soap ingredient	35 Portent
20 Island, in France	4 Feather scar	37 Overwrought
21 Fairy-tale opener	5 Gleason co-star	38 Distant
22 Stallions role	6 Build	43 Jerusalem hill
23 Encountered	7 Comfort, in Cannes	44 Mistakes
24 Religious group	8 Early auto	45 Trapshooting
25 Rider	9 Outdoors	46 Actress
26 Burbot	10 Make into law	St. James, to friends
30 Boulder	11 Nautical term	47 "La —": Duke's wicked
33 Shun	12 "Grand Ole —"	48 Scribed
34 Stylish	13 Formerly called	49 Ginger cookie
35 Heraldic border	18 Benny Hill's forte	50 Gam
36 720 q. of knockwurst	19 Arrow feature	51 Before long
38 Bills	24 Furniture set	52 Anagram for seen
	25 Argo's skipper	53 Tennis term
	26 Sheeplike	54 Yoko
	27 "Army" leader:	55 Wager

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

[illegible]

COHEN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1.—As South, vulnerable, you ?
hold:
♠ Void ♥ J1098 ♦ A4 ♣ AKQJ652
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 2 ♦ 3 ♠
?
What do you bid now?

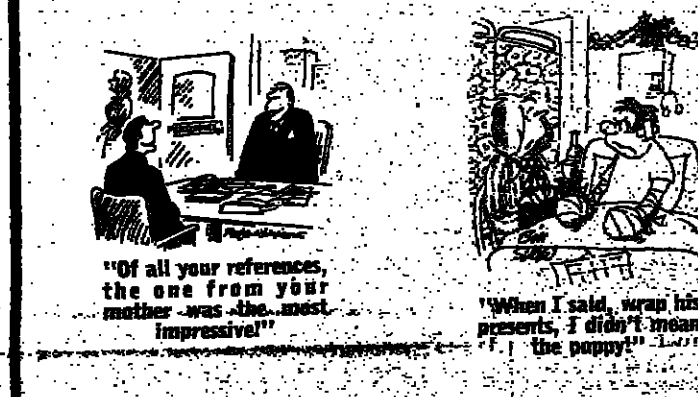
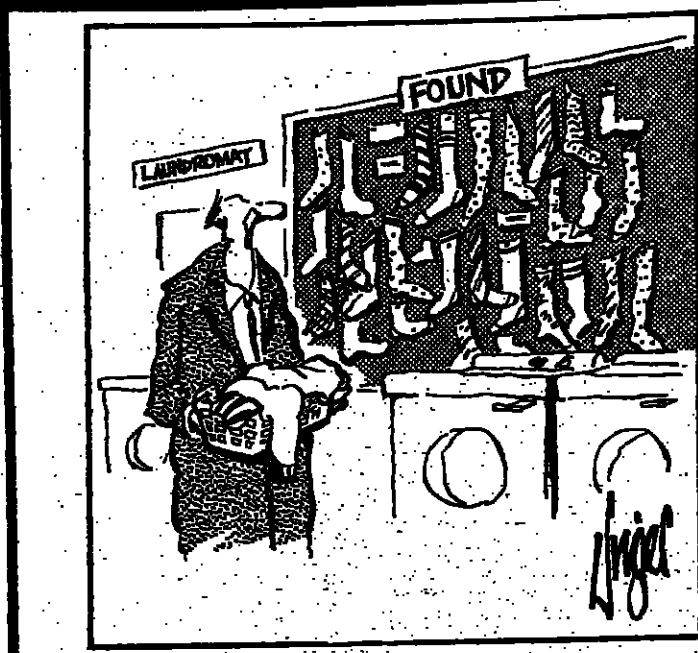
Q.2.—As South, vulnerable, you
hold:
♠ 10632 ♥ 85 ♦ A109762 ♣ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♠ Pass. ?
What action do you take?

Q.3.—Both vulnerable, as South you
hold:
♠ KJ8 ♥ 10863 ♦ A5 ♣ Q1074
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Pass

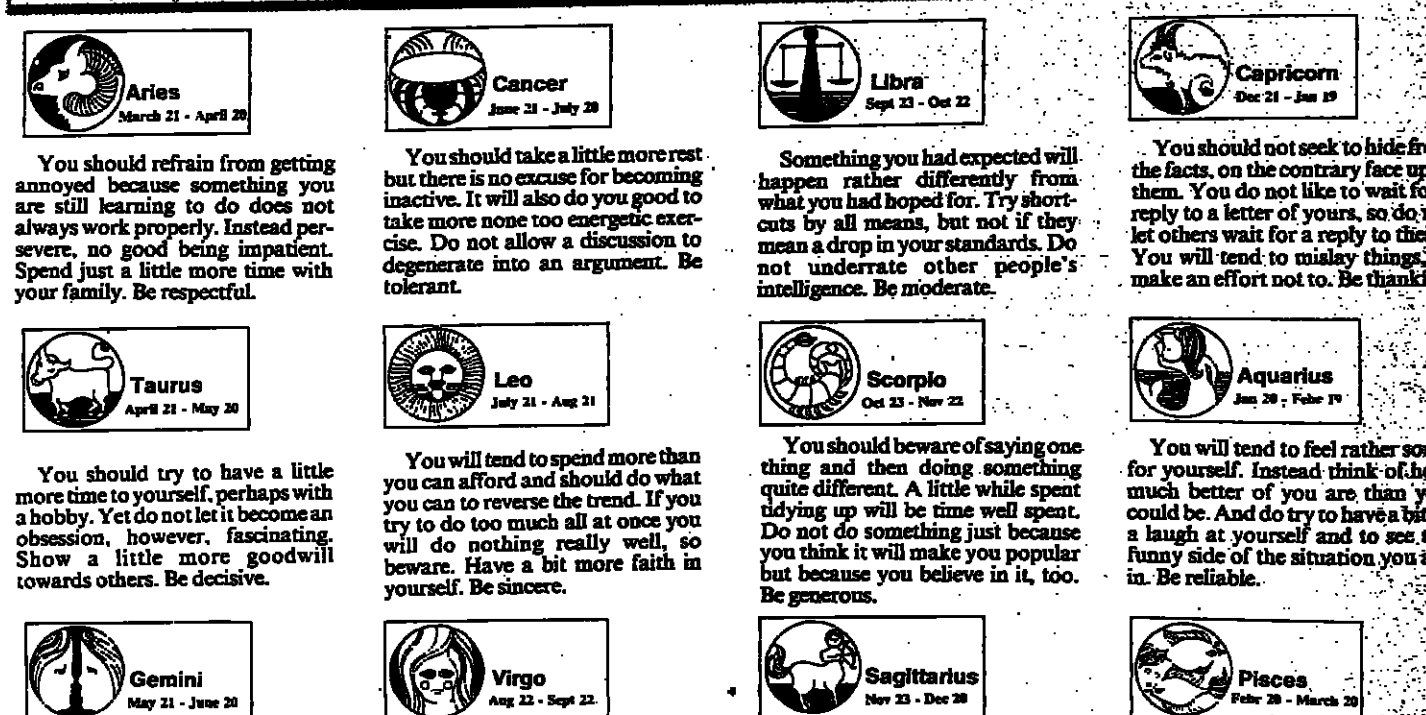
Q.4.—Both vulnerable, as South you
hold:
♠ K10 ♥ 10863 ♦ 105 ♣ AQJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Pass
?
What action do you take?

Q.5.—Neither vulnerable, as South
you hold:
♠ J6 ♥ 95 ♦ K9763 ♣ AK105
As dealer, what action do you take?

Q.6.—Neither vulnerable, as South
you hold:
♠ K9763 ♥ AK105 ♦ 95 ♣ J6
As dealer, what action do you take?



YOUR STARS



Tunnel vision problem

NEWARK, New Jersey. (UPI): The judge admitted the system failed, at least for Damaso Vega who had spent more than seven years in a New Jersey prison on the word of three witnesses who now say they lied at his murder trial.

Middlesex Superior Court judge Robert Figarotta apologized to Vega last year when he reversed his conviction. Jim McCloskey, a businessman turned divinity student turned inmate advocate, spent several years finding the evidence that freed Vega. McCloskey believes such failures are common in the system.

Jurors, who are supposed to bring open minds into the courtroom, tend to believe in the guilt of someone charged with a crime, McCloskey said.

"Their minds have been brainwashed and distorted by TV," he said. "They believe a la Perry Mason that the innocent are acquitted and that the system works almost flawlessly."

McCloskey, whose Centurion Ministries is based in Princeton, has won freedom for a number of men in New Jersey and two people in Texas — a man who narrowly escaped execution for murder and Joyce Ann Brown, who was convicted of armed robbery and murder. He took on his first case as a student at Princeton theological seminary after an inmate he met as a volunteer at Trenton State Prison convinced him he was innocent.

He believes that as many as 10 per cent of those convicted at trial are innocent. "It's certainly not a scientific, documented proposition," he said. "It's based on the thousands and thousands of requests that we get from around the country. It leads us to believe that the phenomenon of a wrongly convicted person is as rare as a pigeon in the park."

Vega was convicted in 1982 of strangling a 16-year-old girl. Like other prisoners McCloskey has freed, Vega, a dark-skinned Hispanic, was poor, and he had a minor criminal record prior to his arrest for murder.

"When people with some kind of record get put to the bar, it stains them even in the eyes of those who defend them because the presumption of guilt is there," McCloskey said. "If they are persons of colour, then that makes it worse."

He believes that police and prosecutors will not knowingly try to convict an innocent person but that they develop tunnel vision once they decide the crime is solved and will do almost anything to secure a conviction.

New Jersey, denies McCloskey's charges. "The obligation of a prosecutor or any law enforcement officer is to see that justice is done," Del Tufo said. "In my career, I've found that that is the pole-star of people that I've dealt with."

McCloskey, the people he has freed and his associates point to a number of problems with the system. They say court-appointed lawyers are often inexperienced, overworked or both. Defense lawyers and public defenders do not have the resources for investigation to match the police departments, prosecutor's investigators and federal and state agents available to the prosecution.

But McCloskey believes the biggest problem is the use of cooperating witnesses — either people admittedly involved with the crime who win leniency for testimony against others or those charged with other crimes who claim to have heard jailhouse confessions.

Del Tufo acknowledged that co-operating witnesses and informants must be handled carefully. "I've never in my career authorised a prosecution on the unverified word of an informant or someone who's been immunized," he said. "You certainly don't want to bring cases where you don't have the evidence to convict. I don't think juries will convict someone where you don't have facts."

James Landano was recently freed by a judge after spending 13 years in East Jersey state prison for the murder of a Newark police officer. He maintains that he was set up by a boyfriend friend who wanted to protect himself and the other members of a New York city motorcycle gang.

Landano's lawyers, Neil Mullin, said the system rewards prosecutors for bending the law. "If a lawyer like me takes 10 per cent out of his trust account he'll be disbarred, but in case after case after case we've shown that prosecutors concealed evidence, and nothing is done," Mullin said.

US Civil War 125th anniversary

Civil war ingrained in the conscience of Southerners

RICHMOND, Virginia. (AP): When Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's troops chased the Confederate government from Richmond, a slave named James Wilder hid in a tobacco silo.

"He almost suffocated in that silo," recalls the slave's grandson, Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, recounting the story passed down through his father. Instead, James Wilder emerged to find himself suddenly a free man, and the city, which had been bombarded for months, wrapped in flames.

Grant rode on 95 miles (153 kilometres) to Appomattox, where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the south's main army seven days later on April 9, 1865, and Wilder went on to beget the father of the United States' first black elected governor.

Though 125 years have passed since the end of the Civil War, it still is ingrained in the consciences of many in the southern United States.

The provocation for the war, which broke out in 1861, was at first largely the labour-intensive south's objection to tariffs favoured by the industrialised north, although the issue of slavery bitterly divided the regions. Only later did the focus shift to the Constitutional issues of secession and the abolition of slavery.

Those issues led to the poignant human drama of brother fighting brother, father fighting son and friend fighting friend, particularly in border states.

The cost of the war was tremendous. More than 600,000 union and confederate soldiers died over the four-year period, nearly equaling the number of Americans killed in all other wars combined.

Because of the high number of casualties, almost everyone who had

forebears in America in 1861 can associate with the war, said Ed Bearss, chief historian of the National Park Service.

The regional and racial divisions exacerbated by the "War of Northern Aggression," the term still used by some Southerners, are beginning to close, and the symbol of the old south are becoming more anachronistic.

Trucks with confederate flags on the rear windows and bumper stickers reading "Forget, Hell" and "The South Will Rise Again" are becoming endan-

gered species. But the ironies of the south in transition still pervade Richmond, the capital of the confederacy, the name commonly given to the government established by Southern states after they seceded from the union of US states.

Residents celebrate on the same day the birthdays of Lee, Gen. Stonewall Jackson, another confederate general, and Martin Luther King Jr., the slain black Civil Rights leader.

One of only two buildings in Richmond's commercial district that

survived Grant's 10-month siege is a granite structure that housed offices of the confederate government. Occupying the building now is the federal court, the institution that helped rid the south of segregation.

Across the Martin Luther King bridge and a block to the left are the Museum of the Confederacy and the Confederate White House, now surrounded by high-rise university buildings.

The museum's sign-in sheet is replete with the names of visitors from cities to the North, as well as Canada and

Europe. Attendance never has been better, spokeswoman Barbara Hyde said.

"There always has been a high interest in the civil war, but in the past four years, it has increased tremendously," she said.

Stories about the war are reaching more people than ever through a growing number of battle re-enactments, battlefield tours, books and specialty magazines, and through the celebrated US movie *Glory*, about the union's first black regiment.

On Richmond's Monument Avenue, two black women and a man who attended a karate class nearby practice their moves at the base of a towering statue.

In between kick punches, Carrie Britton relates how she cried when she saw the movie *Glory* and only then learned there were black soldiers who died fighting for the union. "There was a white woman who made a point of holding the door for me when I was leaving the theatre," Ms Britton said. "She was touched, too."

Charles Bryan, director of the Virginia Historical Society, said he and other Civil War scholars on the lecture circuit are being asked to explain why people continue to be fascinated by a 125-year-old struggle. To answer, he pulls a cone-shaped rifle bullet from his pocket, recovered at a battlefield outside Richmond that's now a residential development. "A young boy brought it to the Historical Society," Bryan said. "One of the reasons the war is so fascinating is that it happened in our own backyard, both literally and figuratively."

The war destroyed the economic and social system of the south. The 12 years of reconstruction that followed, a period in which the 11 secessionist states were regarded as conquered territories, solidified the region's antagonism toward the north. "I don't think there would have been a solid South had there not been what Southerners saw as a harsh reconstruction," Bearss said. "The feelings were so visceral that it went past just disagreement on political ideologies," Wilder said. "Rather, it was almost a lifestyle to be different. The only thing that can change that is the passage of time."

And 125 years later a forgotten battle

"WELCOME to historic Appomattox, where our nation reunited."

Other than the wooden sign at the side of the highway, Harry Little's Civil War souvenir and relic shop adjoining the Lee-Grant Motel is the only reminder of what happened two miles (three kilometres) outside town on April 9, 1865.

In the Victorian parlor of a private home, with the Confederacy's main army surrendered and starving, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, in effect ending the "war between the states."

On the muddy main road of the tiny village of Appomattox Court House three days later, exactly four days after the war started at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, confederate Gen. John Gordon marched his 28,231 ragged, emaciated troops one last time.

As Union troops from the 100,000-strong army of the Potomac lined the muddy road, the rebels, as Confederate soldiers were called, stacked their guns,

hung their ammunition pouches on the sights, furled their battle flags and began the long trek home.

In a re-enactment commemorating the 125th anniversary on Sunday, the solemn sound of soldiers marching again will be broken by the crisp order "stack... arms." But it will be held 150 miles (240 kilometres) away in Fredericksburg, because neither local residents nor the National Park Service, which operates the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, wanted to restage the battles.

About 110,000 people visit Appomattox Court House annually, but few tarry because Appomattox has only two small hotels and few places to eat, said Jon Montgomery, the Park Superintendent.

In 1865, there were 8,900 residents. Now there are about 12,900. A publicity pamphlet issued by the Chamber of Commerce describes Appomattox as "an old-fashioned town where progress

is slow and measured."

But a chain hotel now is under construction across the street from Little's store, and a shopping centre, Historic Junction, recently was completed. Fast-food restaurants beckon on the main highway, and there are plans to lure more people into the main part of town, with its freshly painted, century-old wooden homes and stores.

Montgomery and Mayor Ronnie Spiggle said it takes a sense of history to understand the reluctance over the years to commercialise the park and the decision this year to ignore the battles that took place 125 years ago.

Spiggle agrees with the shrine-like treatment of the park, which continues to be surrounded by miles of undeveloped pastures and looks nearly identical to what the soldiers saw in 1865.

"We don't want to emphasise the battles. They were insignificant compared to other battles of the war," Mon-

gomery said. "The story here is the peace that came here."

After the war, southern opposition to a park at Appomattox kept the Federal government from establishing one for 75 years. A new highway skirted the deteriorating village. Buildings disintegrated and burned. Some were torn down.

In 1940, the National Park Service acquired the land for the park, and the main buildings of the village eventually were restored or reconstructed in time for the 100th anniversary of the surrender.

The 10 historic structures, most red brick surrounded by split-rail or white picket fences, include the McLean House, where the terms of surrender were signed, the courthouse, a tavern, a jail, a general store, a tiny law office and several residences.

"The Southerners wanted to forget what happened here," Montgomery said. "It marked the end of their hopes of having a separate country."

Disaster movie wipes off Joker Jack's face

Nicholson magic fails

By Judy Byrne

THERE's something very reassuring about the fact that even the world's most successful people can get it wrong once in a while.

Take Jack Nicholson, for instance. Not content with being one of the top half-dozen actors in Hollywood, waiting for the offers to roll in, he's even adept at making deals.

For *Batman*, in which he didn't exactly stretch his thespian talents as the Joker, he earned a staggering \$6.8 million and cut himself in for a reported \$18 million from the profits of merchandising.

But if you think Jack the Lad's leading a charmed life, you're wrong. His attempt to direct a successful sequel to his 1974 hit *Chinatown* have turned him into an expensive liability for the film's backers.

The troubled \$15 million production has twice had its release date postponed and word in the movie capital is that *The Two Jakes* can't be saved.

To make things worse, Nicholson's private life is also in disarray since 26-year-old starlet Rebecca Broussard — who plays the hero's secretary in the film — announced she is expecting Nicholson's baby.

Already far from happy about sexy revelations in *Playboy* Magazine about Nicholson's affair with British actress Karen Mayo-Chandler, 28, his long-time love Anjelica Houston is said to be furious about the love child.

But 38-year-old Anjelica, daughter of legendary director John, is used to Nicholson's wild ways. They have been together for more than 16 years, after all.

Nicholson says: "I've proposed to Anjelica from time to time. Sometimes she says yes and sometimes she says no, so we never actually get around to marriage."

But it has never been a critical issue. What interests me is the vitality of our relationship and there's more than enough of that.

"There's something about the way she is that I adore. I've learned as much from her as from anyone. And if I were being fair, I would have to attribute the changes in me to Anjelica."

"She's got a mind and a literary sense of style and you'd better believe she's got imaginative energies. She's absolutely unpredictable and very beautiful. What is it that holds me to her? It's love, I guess, and only love."

"We are together because we want to be. Fascination isn't the right word to describe what I feel about her. I respect her more than I do any other woman."

But Nicholson who starred in *The Shining*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *East*



Jack's long term love, actress Anjelica Houston

Rider, does not deny his imagination as a superstar. He says: "I still like to have a good time with women. I can't go around saying I'm not a womaniser because that would be totally silly."

Trying to explain his appeal to women, he says: "I am well-mannered and that, believe it or not, stands me in good stead. The important thing is to pay attention to the one person who is talking to you and this many people find difficult to do."

Nicholson's love life — he has had more than casual relationships with Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Faye Dunaway and Meryl Streep — may sound complicated but it's nothing compared to the complexities of the relationships during his childhood.

He was brought up in Neptune, New Jersey, and was told his parents split up just before he was born. It was only in the mid-Seventies that he discovered his "sister" June was in fact his mother and his "mother" was really his grandmother.

Nicholson says now: "They sure did know how to keep a secret. I'll give them credit for that! When I found out, I wasn't angry or resentful. I felt a tremendous gratitude, clear and simple. Besides, it's a great asset now to be of dubious parentage."

He left home when he was 20 and hitchhiked to Hollywood. He broke into movies as a teenage psycho in the low-budget horror film *Cry Baby* in 1958.

He recalls: "I got into acting by being a fan. I came to Hollywood because I wanted to see movie stars and I went to the labour-relations desk at the studios and filled in all the forms for a job and I kept coming back until there wasn't cousin or a brother-in-law out of work."

"I got a job in the cartoon department of one studio and a producer met me in the elevator and he looked closely at me and asked would I be an actor? 'No', I said. 'What's wrong with you?' said the producer."

"So I started making tea for a theatre company and became an actor. I had the chance to study others. When I was ready to blast off myself, I could make all the mistakes at the side where no-one else could really see them."

It was his role as a drunken lawyer in the cult biker movie *Easy Rider* in 1969 which marked a watershed in his career. After 10 unsuccessful years in B-Movies. He says: "They didn't want me for the part. They had me along as a consultant because I had some drug-related films. I had to beg them for the role."

The film shot him to fame but also marked the end of his marriage to starlet Sandra Knight who gave him a daughter Jennifer, now 26.

He has made almost 50 motion pictures including *Five Easy Pieces*, *Chinatown*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Wages of Fear*, *Eastwick* and *Prizzi's Honour*. He won Academy Awards for *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Terms of Endearment*.

Although he was highly acclaimed for his role as the joker in *Batman*, Nicholson originally refused the part. Producer Jon Peters says: "He outright laughed at me and told me I had to be crazy!"

But Nicholson was won over when he was told that Michael Keaton would play *Batman*. The movie was a hit world-wide.

Despite rumours that Nicholson has been offered \$24 million to don white face make-up and green hair as the villainous Joker in the *Batman* sequel, he says: "I've had enough of the *Batman* hoopla. Money's not everything and there are other projects that appeal to me more creatively."

"I don't like to pander to audiences. There should be something of value for somebody's time in the dark. Mainly, I don't like to be boring."

"One of the beauties of having a career as an actor is the old cliché 'You are an instrument'. You go through life and what you go through becomes a part of the work you do, and, if it's not too early in the morning, I always come to it with relief."

"An actor's craft is to try and open up and allow feelings to flow through you. If an actor says to another actor or director, 'I hate you', it's not like saying it is a real life."



Hollywood superstar Jack Nicholson

Garbage shredder

Getting rid of waste

ASHLAND, Wisconsin. (AP): Russ Eide says the centrifuge machine he built to mash garbage encompasses two basic scientific facts — winds in a tornado can drive straw through a board and paper is sharp enough to cut skin.

Challenged with a dare, the 51-year-old inventor designed the Dynaforce Garbage processor, a 220,000-dollar centrifuge that may help communities looking to conserve diminishing landfill space.

The machine is slightly larger than a pair of telephone booths and uses the cutting edges of garbage itself to shred waste and reduce its bulk by up to 80 percent.

"It is like a big washing machine," said Eide, owner of Light Work Inc., based in Minneapolis. Eide, a former mechanic and one-time auto parts store owner who grew up remodeling worn-out farm equipment, has worked on the LW 421 for six years, investing most of his life savings.

"It can revolutionize the handling of a lot of things," Eide said at the Ashland landfill where his invention is being tested.

A marketing company is hoping to soon sell 130 units to Toronto, Canada, Eide said. Some cities in the US state of Ohio are looking at the machine. Ashland is leasing one and allowing Eide to do more testing on it.

Henry Simon, Ashland's director of public works, believes that coupled with the city's mandatory recycling programme, the processor could prolong the life of the town's landfill from 7.5 years to 50 years.

A market exists for the machine if Eide can develop conveyors for moving the garbage in and out of the machine and a way to detect heavy metals before they get dumped, Simon said.

"If he can deal with those two items, the machine is golden," he said.

Saint Arora, a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and some of his students spent several weeks studying Eide's invention and his theories about garbage disposal.

Arora said the machine's design is "similar to old rock

crushers," a concept that hasn't been widely applied for shredding garbage.

Eide's basic theory is right, but more testing is needed, Arora said.

Bobban, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said he had no knowledge about Eide's invention, but the concept was developed by a British company years ago.

"Unfortunately in (the garbage-handling) business, there are a lot of new companies that keep reinventing the wheel," Ham said.

Eide is undaunted, noting he has applied for two patents and has refused offers for rights to the machine.

Dumped into the top of the machine, garbage falls onto a series of 1.5-inch (3.8-centimeter) thick steel bars that spin at 850 revolutions per minute, creating a tumbling action.

"Things are thrown against the wall. You get that constant impact. If things are flying around there, they are going to cut things up," Eide said.

Shredded garbage flies out of the machine, ready to be composted or buried, Eide said.

"Do you smell anything here? A slight musty smell," he said, sniffing shredded garbage through his hands. "When it goes through this machine it practically deteriorates it."

The processor, driven by a 300-horsepower engine, can reduce 22, 55-gallon (208-liter) barrels of aluminum cans into one barrel of what looks like shrapnel, Eide said.

"I did run a mattress in it. It shredded it up. It was gone except for the wire," the inventor said.

Eide said his idea started out as a dare over drinks.

"Somebody probably said it can't be done. You can't cut without knives," he recalled. "Having cut myself with paper, I knew how sharp it was when you put in the right position."

Eide and his son built the first processor in the family garage.

"I have sold everything I own to do this," the inventor said. "I even had to get divorced. My wife told me I was crazy. But I believe in it."



The Prizzi's Honor team. Left to right, Jack, Kathleen Turner, director John Huston and Anjelica Houston

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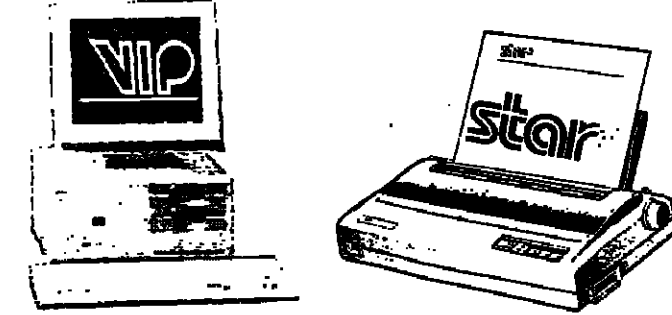
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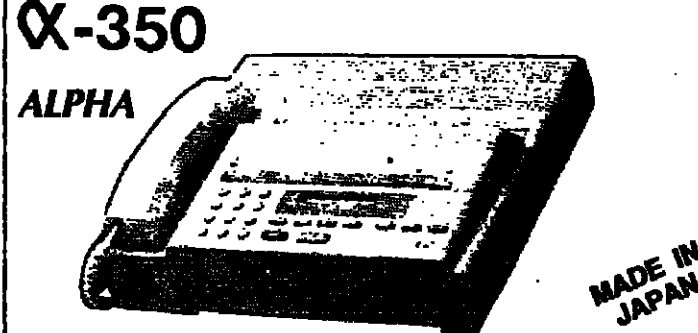
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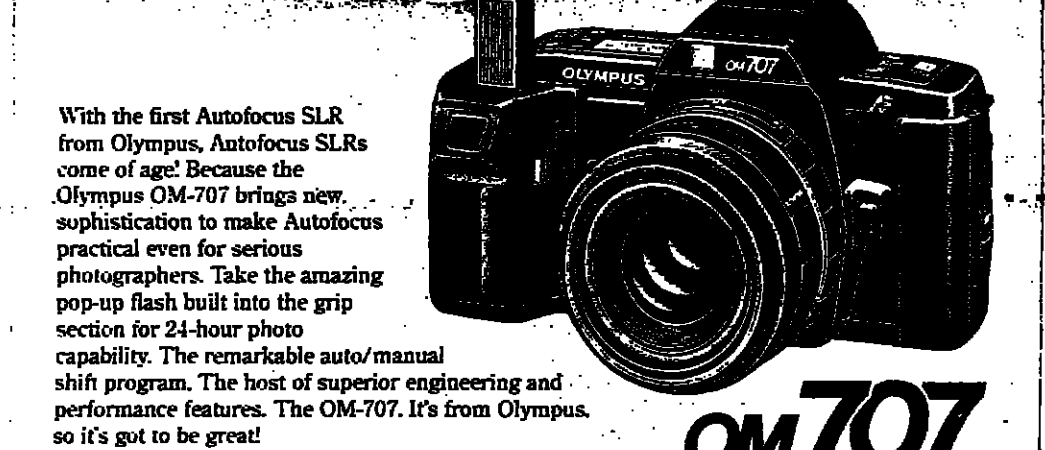
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Liverpool brush aside Charlton

United beat Oldham for final



Oldham's Ian Marshall (right) and United's Bryan Robson fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, April 13. (Reuters) Manchester United beat Second Division Oldham 2-1 after extra time on Wednesday to clinch a place against Crystal Palace in the English FA Cup soccer final.

Substitute winger Mark Robins scored the winner in the 110th minute to take United to the final for the first time since 1985.

United, who drew 3-3 with Oldham in Sunday's first semifinal, again found their neighbours a hard team to beat and went into extra time with the scores level 1-1.

Brian McClair had given United a 50th minute lead but Oldham, who play in the League Cup final at Wembley later this month, equalised through star striker Andy Ritchie 10 minutes from the end of normal time.

Meanwhile, in First Division League action, Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal celebrated his first full match for leaders Liverpool by scoring three times in their 4-0 victory at struggling Charlton.

The win kept Liverpool, who have a match in hand, three points ahead of Aston Villa, who won 1-0 at champions Arsenal with an 85th minute goal from Chris Price. It was only Arsenal's second home defeat of the season.

Liverpool's win provided some consolation for their 4-3 defeat in Sunday's other semifinal to Crystal Palace.

United, who will be making their sixth FA Cup final appearance since 1976, are still dangerously close to the relegation zone in the First Division. But bookmakers promptly made 4-7 their favourites to beat Palace.

Robins, himself a native of Oldham, smashed his home town's dreams within 10 minutes of his arrival on the pitch.

Oldham came close to taking the lead in the eighth minute when goalkeeper Jim Leighton just got a finger to a drive from Nick Henry that thudded against the United crossbar.

United, outrun for much of the

first half by Oldham's energetic attackers, were similarly foiled in the first minute of extra time when Paul Ince's 25-metre drive hit the bar.

In the League, Rosenthal, on loan to Liverpool from Belgium's Standard Liege until the end of the season, hit a classic hat-trick with a right-foot shot, a left-footer and finally a header.

England striker John Barnes made it 4-0 four minutes from full-time with a superb curling shot low into the net.

The defeat left Charlton, who share a ground with Crystal Palace, second to last in the League with 30 points.

Villa dealt a body-blow to Arsenal's slender title hopes when fullback Price fired past goalkeeper John Lukic but it was their own "keeper Nigel Spink whom they had most to thank.

Liverpool face Nottingham Forest at Anfield tomorrow, and should maintain their lead against a side who have taken only one point from their last seven games — the worst run in manager Brian Clough's 15-year reign at the City ground.

Aston Villa take on Chelsea at home. Villa manager Graham Taylor said: "We have got to play Liverpool lose two of their remaining six matches while we win ours ... we have got to keep doing the things we are good at and hope Arsenal do us a favour when Liverpool go to Highbury next Wednesday."

At the other end of the table it is do or die for Charlton at Southampton. Leanne Lawrence's side desperately need a win at Queen's Park Rangers.

"We have one life left," said Lawrence. "If Manchester City beat Sheffield Wednesday at home, obviously anything less than a win at Southampton will make it impossible."

City will be playing a Wednesday side who have lost their last two matches and slipped back into the relegation mire.

Luton take on Everton at Kenilworth Road in a match crucial to its southern club's hopes of staying in the First Division.

Last season, they did the dou-

ble over Everton, winning 1-0 at home on their artificial turf and 2-0 at Goodison Park.

Cup finalists Palace continue their fight against relegation against Arsenal at Selhurst Park, and their Wembley opponents Manchester United take on Queen's Park Rangers at Loftus Road.

English FA Cup	English Division One
Manchester U 2 Oldham	1
Arsenal 0 Aston Villa	1
Charlton 0 Liverpool	4
QPR 1 Manchester C	3
Middlesbrough 2 Port Vale	3
Newcastle 2 West Bromwich	1
West Ham 4 Bournemouth	1
Hereford 0 Reading	0
Millwall 1 Doncaster	0
Stirling 4 Stenhousemuir	2

English League soccer table after Wednesday's matches (tabled) — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points

English Division One	English Division Two
Liverpool 32 19 8 5 62 31 65	1
Aston Villa 33 19 5 9 49 30 62	2
Everton 33 16 8 11 49 37 54	3
Arsenal 32 16 5 11 44 51 53	4
Tottenham 33 15 6 12 51 42 51	5
Chelsea 33 13 12 8 49 43 51	6
Norwich 33 12 11 10 56 35 47	7
Coventry 33 14 14 5 46 47	8
Southampton 33 12 10 11 61 57 46	9
QPR 33 12 10 11 39 36 46	10
Nottingham Forest 33 12 8 13 43 44	11
Derby 33 10 13 8 40 35 43	12
Sheffield Wed 33 10 11 12 44 40	13
Crystal P 32 11 7 14 36 59 40	14
Manchester U 32 10 8 14 40 38	15
Manchester C 33 9 11 13 37 48 38	16
Luton 33 7 12 14 35 50 33	17
Charlton 33 7 9 17 27 47 30	18
Millwall 33 5 11 17 38 56 25	19

English Division Two	English Division Three
Leeds 40 21 12 7 68 44 75	1
Sheffield U 40 20 12 8 65 48 72	2
Newcastle 40 19 12 9 72 49 69	3
Sheff Wed 40 18 11 11 72 54 65	4
Sunderland 40 17 13 10 62 57 64	5
Blackburn 40 16 15 9 68 54 63	6
Wolves 40 17 12 11 64 51 63	7
West Ham 40 15 11 14 57 65 53	8
Oldham 37 15 12 10 54 45 57	9
Ipwich 39 15 12 13 53 54 57	10
Port Vale 40 14 14 12 55 49 56	11
Oxford 40 15 8 19 52 56 53	12
Leicester 40 13 13 14 57 65 53	13
Watford 40 12 15 13 51 51	14
Brighton 40 14 7 19 51 59 49	15
Portsmouth 40 12 13 15 51 59 49	16
West Bromwich 40 11 14 15 40 47 47	17
Bournemouth 41 11 12 18 52 67 45	18
Barnsley 39 11 12 16 40 62 45	19
Hull 39 9 15 15 44 52 42	20
Middlesbrough 39 10 10 19 47 59 40	21
Plymouth 40 8 13 19 40 37	22
Bradford 40 5 16 19 29 56 31	23



Yankees' Roberto Kelly eats the grass after failing to catch a two-run double. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yankees beat Indians

Tigers maul Red Sox

NEW YORK, April 13. (AP) It was just like old times at Yankee stadium on Thursday. Dave Winfield and Don Mattingly were rapping the ball.

Winfield and Mattingly did the early damage and pinch-hitter Luis Polonia singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning yesterday as the Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians 6-4 in a twice-delayed season opener of American League baseball action.

"To get the first hit, to score the first run, it felt good," said Winfield, who missed the 1989 season following back surgery. "Everything I do is kind of new. It's like I'm a rookie."

Winfield went 1-for-29 in spring training, fueling speculation he might not be able to come back at age 35. But he did the second inning with a hard double down the left-field line for his first official hit in 568 days.

Mattingly, who signed a new \$129 million, five-year contract this week, worried all winter about another of his notorious slow starts. He is a career .285 hitter in April, 47 points below his lifetime average, and hit just .221 with no home runs and zero RBIs in last year's first month. This time he had two hits and singled home a run.

Tigers 11, Red Sox 7
Lou Whitaker hit his 150th career homer, and Tony Phillips had four hits as Detroit snapped an 11-game losing streak against Boston.

The victory kept the Tigers from matching their longest regular-season losing streak to one team. Detroit lost 12 straight to Minnesota from May 14-April 12, 1989, and to Cleveland in 1950 and 1951.

The Red Sox, who opened with three straight wins for the first time since 1985, remained one win short of 7,000.

Blue Jays 7, Rangers 1
Kelly gruber hit a three-run homer and Fred McGriff hit his first home run in 108 at-bats.

McGriff's second-inning homer off Jamie Moyer (0-1) tied the game 1-1. McGriff led the American League with 36 home runs last season, but his last homer was on Sept 4 against the Chicago White Sox at Comiskey Park.

Manny Lee's RBI single in the fourth gave Toronto a 2-1 lead and the Blue Jays broke open the game with four runs in the seventh. Pat Borders homered off Moyer and Gruber hit a three-run homer off Kenny Rogers. Gruber's third hit of the game.

Results	American League
N.Y. Yan 6 Cleveland 4	4
Chicago 5 Boston 2	7
Toronto 7 Texas 1	1
Baltimore 3 Minnesota 1	1

Results	National League
Philadelphia 5 Chicago 4	4
Pittsburgh 6 N.Y. Mets 2	2
San Diego 8 Los Angeles 4	4
San Francisco 13 Atlanta 6	6

Sweden beat W. Germany

GOTHENBURG, April 13. (Reuters) Jan-Ove Waldner's European Championship nightmare ended in the nick of time on Wednesday when he won the match that clinched Sweden's 10th team gold medal triumph.

With defending European singles champion Mikael Appelgren in superb form and world gold medalist Waldner coming good after two defeats, the Swedes were able to defend their crown by beating West Germany 5-2 in the final.

Waldner has found the pressure of being world champion hard to bear in the past year but despite his patchy form in Gothenburg coach Glenn Osth kept faith with him.

Appelgren, the mainstay of the team and unbeaten in the team event, opened with a 21-19 21-17 win over Steffen Fetzner. Jorgen Persson, a European singles winner in 1986, followed up by beating Joerg Roskopf, Fetzner's partner in winning world doubles gold, in three games.

But then came Romanian-born Georg-Zolt Boehm, a dogged fighter who beat Waldner 24-22 14-21 21-18 to keep the West German hopes alive.

Waldner lost again, to Fetzner, after Appelgren had dispatched Roskopf in two games and West Germany seemed set to draw level when Boehm, at his finest when in trouble, saved seven match points against Persson.

But Boehm, 27, succumbed in the end, sending a ball high into the air on the eighth match point and Waldner was left with the task of trying to wrap up victory in the next match.

Despite squandering the chance to finish the match in two games, Waldner returned to his old self in a close third game and took his second matchpoint to beat Roskopf 21-18 21-23 21-18.

With the women's defending champions the Soviet Union safely knocked out of the medals reckoning at the round robin stage, Hungary easily took the title with a 3-0 victory over Czechoslovakia, the silver medalists in Paris two years ago.

The Hungarians dropped only one game, when former European singles champion Csilla Batorfi was taken to three games by Renata Kasalova in the second match.

French giants set to clash in critical game

TENSION rose in France this week ahead of the critical soccer clash between League leaders Bordeaux and champions Marseille in the Mediterranean port tomorrow.

Just one point separates the two sides, who have been fighting for national soccer supremacy for the last three years, ahead of the sell-out clash for which special security measures have been taken.

On Tuesday, 12 Marseille fans were injured when hundreds of spectators queuing to buy tickets for the match were crushed against fences.

A war of words between Marseille president Bernard Tapie and his Bordeaux counterpart Claude Beuz also served to turn the duel into a battle of nerves. Beuz recently labelled Tapie "a boogaloo". Tapie replied by accusing Beuz of tax fraud.

Bordeaux had the perfect warm-up against Metz, with West German striker Klaus Allofs, who joined them from Marseille at the start of the season, scoring three goals. Dutchman Piet Den Boer, back in action after an ankle injury, scored the fourth.

Suspensions will keep 10 players out of next week's return legs of semifinal matches in the European Football Union's (UEFA) three club competitions.

UEFA spokesman Rene Ebe said on Wednesday eight received second bookings this season or were sent off in last week's first-leg ties.

AC Milan's Roberto Donadoni and Giuseppe Iachini of Fiorentina were already on the list of players forced to sit out the second legs because of earlier three and two-match bans respectively, he said.

Milan international winger Donadoni's plea for his suspension to be reduced was thrown out by UEFA's appeals board on Monday.

Full list of suspensions: European Cup — Donadoni, Raimundo Richardo (Benfica, Portugal).

Cup Winners Cup — Claude Puel (Monaco), Moreno Mami and Fausto Salsano (Sampdoria, Italy), Stephen Keshi (Anderlecht, Belgium), Michel Klein (Dinamo Bucharest).

UEFA Cup — Iachini, Giancarlo Marocchi (Juventus, Italy), Pierre Littbarski (Cologne, West Germany).

Napoli awarded 2-0 win over Atalanta

MILAN, Italy, April 13. (Reuters) Napoli were awarded a 2-0 win by Italy's soccer authorities on Wednesday in a League match originally drawn 0-0.

The decision puts Napoli level on points with AC Milan at the top of the First Division. Napoli had appealed to have their 0-0 draw at Atalanta on Sunday converted into a 2-0 win after Brazilian international midfielder Alemao was hit above an ear by a coin thrown from the crowd 12 minutes before the end.

The Italian football authorities meeting in Milan also fined Atalanta 30 million lire (\$24,000).

Italian soccer rules allow a club to be awarded a 2-0 win if its performance was seriously affected by hooliganism.

The ruling puts Napoli level with AC Milan on 45 points with three weeks remaining although the European and world club champions have a better goal difference.

Both are four points ahead of Inter Milan, the defending champions.

The decision also means Atalanta, who were chasing a place in next season's UEFA Cup, drop from seventh equal on 33 points to eighth on 32.

Atalanta had earlier claimed that Alemao was faking serious injury and said they wanted an inquiry into the incident.

Three teams, including then reigning champions Napoli, benefited from the ruling when it was last applied in 1987-88.

In the worst incident that season, in Decem-

ber 1987, AC Milan were penalised after Roma goalkeeper Giancarlo Tancredi nearly died when a firecracker hit him.

AC Milan, still involved in the European Cup and Italian Cup, can retake the sole lead of the First Division this evening when they play Sampdoria at home in a match brought forward from tomorrow when Napoli are at home to Bari.

The Milan side's title chase has also been affected by a ruling that has forced them to play their last home match of the season against Bari on April 29 at Bologna.

Milan city authorities will close the San Siro stadium AC Milan share with Inter on April 25 to partially re-allocate the pitch for the World Cup finals which start there on June 8.

Police officers to sue their chief

SHEFFIELD, England, April 13. (Reuters) About 150 British police officers are threatening to sue their chief, alleging they suffered psychological trauma during a soccer crowd stampede in Sheffield a year ago in which 95 fans were killed.

A police spokesman said on Wednesday that officers who were on duty during the disaster at Hillsborough stadium last April 15 were planning to sue Chief Constable Peter Wright as well as the ground's owners, Sheffield Wednesday Club.

The disaster was caused by spectators pushing into an overcrowded section of the stadium a few minutes after the start of last year's Football Association Cup semifinal clash between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

An interim report into the disaster last August said there was a lack of police control and rejected police assertions that blame should lie with fans arriving late and drunk.

Lawyer Ian Walker, acting for the police officers, said: "These men and women have been deeply affected by what they saw."

The officers were not entirely happy about suing their own force but the alternative would be to try to claim damages from anonymous fans, he said.

The decision to sue was attacked by senior officers. "When there is a disaster it is our job as police officers to go in there and clear it up," said one. "We are in danger of people seeing this as policemen jumping on the financial bandwagon."

Record fee

BREMEN, West Germany, April 13. (Reuters) Werder's Bremen's international striker Karl-Heinz Riedle signed for Italian First Division club Lazio on Wednesday for what club sources said was a record fee for a Bundesliga player.

Financial details were not revealed but sources at the northern West German club said the transfer fee was between 12 and 15 million marks (\$7.2 to 8.8 million).

The club sources said the 34-year-old player, who was named on Tuesday for West Germany's World Cup warm-up against fellow finalists Uruguay this month, would earn 1.4 million marks (\$840,000) a year with the Rome club.

Waldegard leads Safari Rally, Alen drops out

By Jadranka Porter in Kenya

SWEDISH rally driver B. Waldegard and team mate F. Gallagher were in the lead on Thursday after the grueling first day of the five-day, 4,000-kilometre Kenya's Marlboro Safari Rally, expected to be finished by only a handful out of 59 entrants.

The pair, driving a Toyota Celica GT4, were followed by the favourite and two-time winner Miki Biasion of Italy who recovered remarkably from the 6th place he held more than half way through a 1,150-kilometre-long route from Nairobi to Taita Hills and back.

Another Toyota Celica driven by a Swede M. Ericsson that held second place for most part of the race finished third.

After days of torrential rain and despite forecasts of more wet weather the rally began in brilliant sunshine, but by late afternoon and hundreds of kilometres southeast of the capital, the weather and road conditions were beginning to bite hard. Organisers and commentators predicted only 10 cars would finish the rally, described as the wettest in a decade. Some put the figure as low as five.

There were eight casualties on the first day with the most disappointing being the retirement of Finland's Markku Alen who had decided to forgo participation in several rallies so that he could spend the winter practising in Kenya for this 38th Marlboro Safari Rally. Alen was in



Biasion (left) and Waldegard: occupying the top two positions after the first day of the Marlboro Safari Rally.

the lead when his Subaru Legacy, reportedly filled with mud, over-heated after a hard drive through the Taita Hills.

Mud is the most-hated word among the drivers and even some sections of the 700-strong media corps that follow in their wake. Drivers reported Thursday afternoon 23 cars stuck behind a lorry that was bogged down in the road to Wanganga. But there was little evidence of mud in the vicinity of Taita Hill Lodge where we flew for a piece of action. As Waldegard, Eric-

son and Biasion roared past the time control point 8 in that order, peppered with gravel and pebbles we ran for shelter and gulped for air in a cloud of reddish dust.

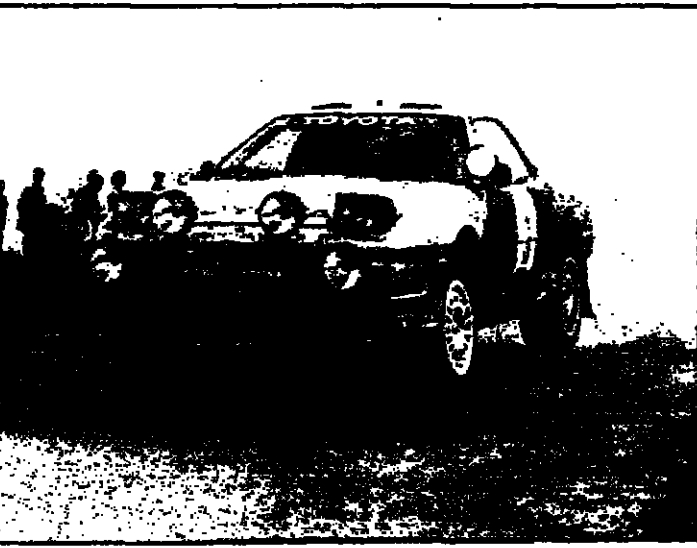
The closest we came to sampling the real stuff was when our Kenyan driver who deployed skill, speed and daring similar to that of the competitors, took us on the same narrow road the rally drivers were coming on, but in the opposite direction. At one point his bravado drew enthusiastic cheers from Kenyan spectators only to turn into frantic wav-

ing of the arms in a warning of an impending disaster. We just had enough time and room to pull to the side to avoid a head-on collision with Alex Fiorio's Lancia Delta that sped past at 100 km per hour. The roads rally drivers are advancing on are never closed, and they know it. Although the normal traffic goes on and villagers repeatedly cross from one side to another accidents are few and far between.

As we flew back to Nairobi past Mount Kilimanjaro, all wrapped up in dark and heavy clouds, the drivers down below were fighting mud and rain in the area close to the border with Tanzania.

This caused the delay of more than two hours with first drivers reaching at midnight the finish area at Nairobi's Kenyatta International Conference Centre they left more than 12 hours earlier. And although it was late the cheerful Kenyans turned out in numbers to offer cheers that were well deserved.

Clerk of the Course for the Marlboro Safari Rally, Peter Hughes, has extended lateness by



three hours between controls 6 and 9 (Kibweza and Bura) after harrowing reports from a mud hole which claimed numerous victims.

At one point thirty vehicles of various descriptions, not all of them rally cars, were stuck in the mud hole 40 kilometres from TCR Wanganga.

Waldegard lost radio contact with his team as he charged through the infamous Chyulu. The radio set on his Toyota Celica GT4 (Car No. 3) was reported to be out of action. And the lens on one of his wing-mounted lamps was broken.

Leading racehorse trainer Bart Cummings and his son Anthony were fined 17,000 Australian dollars (\$13,000) on Wednesday after a positive dope test on discovering a likely runner in next week's Sydney Cup.

Former star BRUSSELS, April 13. (Reuters) Former Belgian tennis star Bernard Boileau was sentenced to three years in jail on Wednesday, but was let out of prison to take a course of treatment for heroin addiction.

Brabham driver LONDON, April 13. (Reuters) David Brabham, the youngest son of three-times former world drivers champion Sir Jack Brabham, on Wednesday signed a contract to drive for the Brabham team his father founded in 1961.

Dates faked EAST BERLIN, April 13. (AP) Romanian sports officials formerly faked the birth dates of top women gymnasts to make them eligible for the Olympics and other major events earlier than allowed by international rules, a report said Wednesday.

Soviet gymnast MOSCOW, April 13. (Reuters) Former Top Soviet gymnast Nelli Kim is to train South Korea's team for the Asian Games in September, the official news agency Tass said yesterday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

E. Germany win

WEST BERLIN, April 13. East Germany scored twice in the first half to beat Egypt 2-0 in a World Cup warm-up match for Egypt in Karl-Marx-Stadt Wednesday.

Soccer friendly

ALGIERS, April 13. (Reuters) Algeria and Sweden drew 1-1 (half-time 1-0) in a friendly soccer international on Wednesday. Both goals were scored from penalties.

Denmark triumph

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, April 13. (AP) Lars Jacobsen scored early in the second half to lift Denmark to a 1-0 victory over Turkey on Wednesday.

Cortes wins

MELBOURNE, Australia, April 13. (AP) World-ranked Alberto Cortes of Argentina stopped Australian Lester Ellis in the sixth round in an international super-lightweight fight.

Santos rebuked

BERNE, April 13. (Reuters) Benfica president Joao Santos has been rebuked by the European Football Union (UEFA) for remarks he made after a European Cup semifinal in Marseille.

Dutch soccer

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, April 13. (Reuters) PSV Eindhoven recovered the leadership of the Dutch soccer First Division on Wednesday when they trounced mid-table RKC Waalwijk 4-0.

French Cup

PARIS, April 13. (Reuters) Third round results in the French soccer cup on Wednesday:

Bordeaux	4	Metz	0
Montpellier	2	Nantes	0
Racing Paris	5	Gueugnon	0
Marseille	2	Nîmes	0
Avignon	2	Orléans	1
Valenciennes	3	St Etienne	4
Lille	0	Cannes	0

SPORTS

Walsh & Co. launch bumper barrage

England hold off West Indies



Walsh: took two wickets

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, April 13, (Reuters): Courageous batting by England saw them through a torrid bumper barrage on the opening day of the decisive fifth cricket Test against West Indies yesterday.

A first innings score of 203 for six when bad light stopped play early was probably less than they had hoped for after winning the toss.

But they did well to reach that modest total after being battered by an unremitting onslaught of short-pitched deliveries on a responsive pitch.

Robin Smith epitomized the England resolve. Entering the fray when the visitors were 143 for three, 10 of his first 13 balls reared at him off a short length.

The fourth, delivered by Courtney Walsh, struck him a sickening blow on the side of the chin, making him reel back in shock and pain. The next delivery was equally short, causing him to duck.

With the series level at 1-1, West Indies were obviously intent on using their fast bowling attack to cow the England bats-

men. Aided by some good fortune, openers Alec Stewart and Wayne Larkins put on 42 for the first wicket before Stewart flashed at Walsh once too often and was caught for 27 by West Indies captain Viv Richards at first slip.

Larkins, twice out without scoring in the previous Test, played a dogged anchor role, taking three hours to score 30 before he went in similar fashion, caught by Carl Hooper at second slip off Curtly Ambrose to make the score 101 for two.

Robin Bailey and acting captain Allan Lamb moved the total to 143 but then the continuous onslaught began to take its toll. Bailey was caught behind by Jeff Dujon off Ian Bishop for 42 and Lamb, scorer of two centuries in the series, fell for 37 without addition. He was beaten by an Ambrose ball that swung away and gave Richards his

second catch at first slip.

That brought together Nasser Hussain and David Capel, who took the score to 195 before Capel cut a long hop from Bishop straight at Desmond Haynes in the gully.

At the close, Hussain was unbeaten on 16 and Jack Richards on four. Walsh, Bishop and Ambrose took two wickets each.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings
A. Stewart c Richards b Walsh.....27
W. Larkins c Hooper b Ambrose.....30
R. Bailey c Dujon b Bishop.....37
A. Lamb c Richards b Ambrose.....37
R. Smith lbw b Walsh.....12
N. Hussain not out.....16
D. Capel c Haynes b Bishop.....10
J. Russell not out.....4
Extras (b-4 lb-7 nb-14).....25
Total (six wickets).....203
Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-101 3-143 4-167 5-187 6-195

Bowling (to date): Bishop 19-5-57-2, Ambrose 22-5-59-2, Walsh 10-4-48-2, Baptiste 13-4-30-0.
To bat: P. DeFreitas, G. Small, D. Malcolm.

West Indies: G. Greenidge, D. Haynes, R. Richardson, V. Richards, C. Hooper, G. Logie, J. Dujon, E. Baptiste, I. Bishop, C. Ambrose, C. Walsh.



Sabatini: thrashed Caverzasio



Sanchez: blasted Rinaldi

Sabatini, Sanchez win

Bassett to face Graf

AMELIA, Island, Fla., April 13, (Reuters): Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and third-seeded French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain posted easy straight-set wins yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Amelia Island Women's Open.

Sabatini, seeded second, rallied from a sluggish start to oust 14th seed Cathy Caverzasio of Italy 6-4 6-0, while Sanchez Vicario crushed 16th-seeded American Kathy Rinaldi 6-0 6-1 in just 50 minutes.

Sabatini began to dictate play after trailing 1-3 in the first set and dropped just one more game after waking up in the fifth game.

"I was not doing very much in the beginning, just putting the ball in. I was staying back instead of being aggressive," said Sabatini, who will next play 10th-seeded West German Isabel Cuko. "One of my biggest goals for this year is to be more aggressive," she said.

Sanchez Vicario ran off 10 successive games before allowing Rinaldi to get on the scoreboard. The Spaniard will next face sixth-seeded Canadian Helen Kolesi, a 6-2 7-6 winner over Argentine Bettina Fulco.

Kolesi's compatriot Carling Bassett-Seguso scored her second consecutive upset with a 6-4 6-2 victory over 12th-seeded Italian Linda Ferrando and ear-

ned a quarterfinal meeting with world number one Steffi Graf, who advanced on Wednesday.

"It's really fun to be out here winning matches again. My confidence has really improved," said Bassett-Seguso, who has been relatively inactive over the past two years.

"I don't really want to think about playing (Graf) right now," added Bassett-Seguso, who failed to win a single game in her

last encounter with Graf. "It's very overwhelming to play against her."

Fourth seed Zina Garrison of the US and fifth seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union also posted straight set victories and will meet in the other quarterfinal.

Zvereva crushed Angeliki Kaniellou 6-1 6-3. While Garrison beat Veronica Martinek 6-4 6-4.



Zvereva: reaches quarterfinal

SPORTS BRIEF

Former boxer

NEW YORK, April 13, (UPI): Ex-middleweight king Rocky Graziano, the dead-end kid who spent most of his youth locked up and went on to become one of boxing's greatest champions, was in serious condition yesterday following a stroke. The 69-year-old former boxer was being treated in the intensive care unit at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center where he was brought Sunday after suffering a stroke, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 13, (Reuters): Results of first-round National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff games played yesterday: Norris Division, Chicago Black Hawks 5, Minnesota North Stars 1 (Black Hawks lead best-of-seven series 3-2), St. Louis Blues 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 3 (Blues win best-of-seven series 4-1), Smythe Division, Calgary Flames 5, Los Angeles Kings (Kings lead best-of-seven series 3-2), Edmonton Oilers 4, Winnipeg Jets 3 (Jets lead best-of-seven series 3-2).

Top driver

LONDON, April 13, (Reuters): McLaren managing director Ron Dennis said on Wednesday he was negotiating to re-sign Ayrton Senna as his top driver next year. He described himself as "very relaxed" about reports linking the Brazilian with McLaren's chief Formula One rivals Ferrari.

Ballard dies

TORONTO, April 13, (Reuters): Toronto Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard, who ruled Maple Leaf Gardens with a sharp tongue and regularly captured more headlines than his hockey team, died in a Toronto hospital on Wednesday at the age of 86, from heart and kidney disease.

Mulsanne Straight

LE MANS, France, April 13, (Reuters): The controversial Mulsanne Straight at Le Mans was consigned to history on Wednesday. Officials announced that the building of two chicanes on the most famous stretch of the 24-hour race circuit had been completed.

Bruguera wins

BARCELONA, Spain, April 13, (Reuters): Sergi Bruguera helped take some of the sting out of Spain's recent Davis Cup defeat when he easily disposed of Austria's Horst Skoff 6-2 6-3 in the third round of the Barcelona Tennis Grand Prix yesterday.

Yacht race

HONG KONG, April 13, (AP): Sixty-two yachts from Hong Kong and 10 nations set sail yesterday in cloudy weather on the 1,040-kilometre (650-mile) Corum China Sea race to Manila.

Motorcycle race

SAO PAULO, Brazil, April 13, (AP): The Brazilian Grand Prix motorcycle race could be cancelled this year unless changes are made at the Interlagos track, world champion Sito Pons says.

India opts out of Sharjah tourney

NEW DELHI, April 13, (Reuters): The Indian government has decided to tell the national cricket team it cannot compete in this month's six-nation Sharjah Cup because of rising tension with Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

They said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) would be told that security considerations ruled the team out of the Cup in which Pakistan will compete along with West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The BCCI would be told formally of the decision at its meeting scheduled for Bombay on Sunday, the officials said.

Lendl and Edberg reach semifinals

Gilbert outplays Masur

TOKYO, April 13, (AP): Top-seeded Ivan Lendl, second-seeded Stefan Edberg and third-seeded Brad Gilbert won their quarterfinal matches today in the rain-delayed \$1.15 million Japan Open tennis tournament.

Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the world's top-ranked player, beat Amos Mansdorf of Israel, the No. 10 seed, 6-4 6-2.

Sweden's Edberg beat seventh-seeded Jim Grabb of the United States 6-3, 6-3 while American Gilbert defeated sixth-seeded Wally Masur of Australia 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

All of the matches were halted several times because of rain.

The other quarterfinal match, between No. 5 seed Michael Chang and fourth-seeded fellow American Aaron Krickstein, was suspended due to rain after Krickstein took the first set 7-6 (7-2) and led 1-0 in the second set.

In the semifinals, on the hard courts of Ariake Colosseum, Edberg is to play Gilbert and Lendl is to face the winner of the Chang-Krickstein match.

In the women's singles competition, semifinal matches between Australia's Elizabeth Smylie and Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu and between top-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and Eva Sviglerova of

Czechoslovakia are to be played tomorrow.

Lendl and Edberg reached today's quarterfinals after difficult games yesterday.

Lendl overcame tournament qualifier Joseph Russell 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, while Edberg staved off a determined Alex Antonitsch 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-1.

"The wind always gets up in the afternoon," Edberg said. "But I didn't expect it today. He played some good shots and he made some lucky ones in the tiebreaker, but I knew when I broke him in the final set that would be it."

Gilbert called his yesterday's match with West Germany's Alexander Mronz "a struggle" but he emerged with a 4-6 7-5 6-1 win.

"I had a hard time finding my rhythm today," Gilbert said. "I was fortunate to get the victory."

"He was up a break 4-2 in the second set, but I put together a decent game to get to 4-3. I wasn't playing well, but I played better and I forced him to make more shots."

Krickstein barely broke sweat yesterday in disposing of Canadian Grant Connell 6-3, 6-2, but Chang had problems with West Germany's Patrik Kuhnen.



Lendl: outclassed Mansdorf

Avocet agrees to stop using Lemond's name

RENO, Nevada, April 13, (AP): The maker of a bicycle computer agreed to stop using two-time Tour de France winner Greg Lemond's name, photograph or likeness in advertising without his approval.

But the civil lawsuit filed against Avocet Inc. last month by Lemond remains in effect under the stipulation signed by both parties and approved Tuesday by US district judge Bruce Thompson.

Lemond endorsed the Avocet cyclometer in 1989 for a \$60,000 fee, but that contract ended last year and he didn't give his permission to continue using his image, according to his lawsuit.

Lemond since has endorsed another bicycle

computer.

Michael Phillips, national sales manager for Avocet, based in Menlo Park, California, has said he does not know why the racer filed the lawsuit against his company because the advertisements in dispute depict several riders.

Nathan Jenkins, who represents Lemond, said that although the picture shows Lemond with a group of other racers during the Tour de France, "You can be assured that the American public will only recognize Greg Lemond."

The Avocet cyclometer functions as an odometer, speedometer, stopwatch and clock, measuring things such as how fast and far a bicycle has travelled per trip or during an extended time period.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Tuesday:

- N/S
1. Tiab & Sherin
2. Mrs Musall & Dr Tawil
3. Henaldi & Ezzeldin
EW
1. Mrs Pereira & D' Souza
2. Mrs Sapre & D. Pereira
3. Carlston & Harris

Bayern triumph

BONN, April 13, (Reuters): Bayern Munich moved a step closer to retaining their West German soccer title with a confident 3-0 victory over Kaiserslautern yesterday.

The full League programme was brought forward two days to allow for an Easter break.

Nicklaus takes 3-shot lead in PGA tourney



Nicklaus: had a very good round

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, April 13, (AP): Jack Nicklaus overpowered his own creation and a mismatched field yesterday with a display of strength and skill rarely found in men half his 50 years of age.

He pounded out a drive of 385 yards (325 metres) — "the only one I really swung hard at," he said — in a 4-under par round of 68 that gave him a 3-stroke lead after the first day of the 51st PGA Senior Championship.

"I played a very good round of golf today," the satisfied Nicklaus said after scoring five birdies and a single bogey in strong winds that gusting over the champions course at PGA National, which he redesigned for the tournament.

Some other members of golf's over-50 set simply were awed.

"He's just better than the rest of us," Chi Chi Rodriguez said. "I think it's in his genes. He's the greatest player who ever lived. He was better than us back then,

and he's better now."

Nicklaus stopped well short of such claims.

"Don't be fooled by this," said Nicklaus, who won his first Seniors start two weeks ago and challenged for a seventh Masters title until late in the final round last weekend. "I don't want any problems. And I don't know what they might be, but I'll probably have some before this is over."

Problems, however, were at a minimum yesterday, although his putter didn't give him much help. He required 32 strokes on the greens.

The contributions of a metal-headed, graphite-shafted driver he obtained from Jumbo Ozaki more than made up for those little deficiencies.

With that club covering vast distances, he needed only a 5-iron second shot to the par-5 third hole and a 7-iron second to the 540-yard 10th.

It was there he unleashed a

drive of freakish distance. The hole was playing downwind, and Nicklaus' enormous drive hit a paved cart path and eventually came to rest 385 yards away.

"I probably got about 50 yards off the cart path, so it would have been about 335 without the bounce," he said.

Mike Hill, Dale Douglas, Al Kelley and Jim Ferree were the only others to break par. They were at 71.

Lee Trevino, who won three of four starts before Nicklaus joined the seniors, struggled to a 77 and said he was out of it.

Defending champion Larry Mowry had a 76. Bob Charles, the New Zealand lefty who won Player of the Year awards the last two seasons, came in with a 76.

Gary Player shot 74. Arnold Palmer took an embarrassing 80.

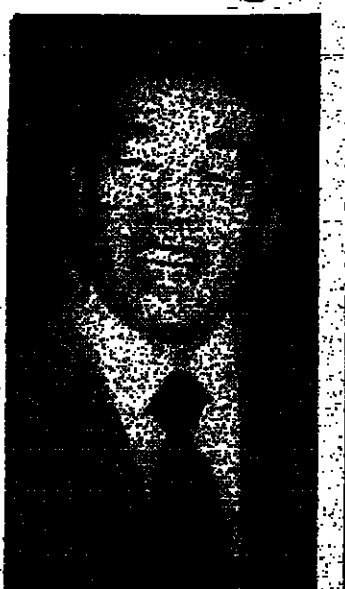
And Nicklaus was in the lead, a position he held so many times against the same competitors a quarter-century ago.

JOC chief to resign

TOKYO, April 13, (AP): Billionaire Yoshiaki Tsutsumi said yesterday he would resign in May as Japan Olympic Committee president because of a mishap during the Asian Winter Games — where the North Korean national anthem was played during a ceremony honouring a South Korean athlete.

"I'm sorry for the clumsiness and for all the troubles (it caused). Hoping that such an embarrassing mistake will never happen again, I hope the (JOC) board of directors will approve my resignation at their next meeting in May 9," he told a news conference at his JOC office.

The JOC occurred March 9 during a victory ceremony for a South Korean gold medal winner following the women's 1,500-metre short track speed skating race in Sapporo, in northern Japan.



Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, when the wrong national anthem was played twice in row.

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